



Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-014
Tuesday
24 January 1989

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Nicaragua's D'Escoto Rejects New Summit Dates
PA2301130089 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1215 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Nicaragua insists that the Central American presidential summit be held 8-9 February. It considers the dates 13-14 February unacceptable. In a letter to which we have had access, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto told his Central American counterparts that confusion is being created because of the threat of a new postponement of the summit in El Salvador.

On 21 January, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said that on the initiative of Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, the new summit dates would be 13-14 February. It was reported from Costa Rica yesterday that President Oscar Arias agreed to attend the summit 13-14 February. This position was also adopted by Honduran President Jose Azcona, Guatemalan President Cerezo, and Salvadoran President Duarte. Therefore, Nicaragua's position breaks hopes of achieving consensus on the date of the summit, which has been postponed six times since August 1988.

In the letter to the Central American foreign ministers, D'Escoto said it is essential to maintain the 8-9 February dates, agreed upon by the presidents of the region. D'Escoto added: We should not permit the postponing of the 15-16 January summit to become a pattern that threatens the continuation of the peace process in Central America. The postponing of the 15-16 January summit was at the request of Arias, who argued, among other reasons, that the summit might be a failure if the presidents had no prior knowledge of U.S. President George Bush's policy on Central America.

D'Escoto stressed: We must not accept the postponing of the summit as an acceptable practice, because all this creates confusion.

The objective of the summit is the reactivation of the Esquipulas II peace agreements signed by the Central American presidents on 7 August 1987.

Cuba

Vice President Rodriguez Receives GDR Official

FL2001021689 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 0020 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today met in Havana with Mr Gerhard Schuerer, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers and chairman of the GDR State Planning Commission. Schuerer heads the delegation attending the 43d meeting of the CEMA Planning Committee.

The two leaders analyzed economic relations between Cuba and the GDR and possible areas that could be developed. Special attention was paid to the cooperation rendered by the GDR in increasing cement production in our country.

Division General Attends Central Army Meeting

FL2001025989 Havana Television Service in Spanish
0100 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Division General Sixto Batista Santana, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, secretary of the Central Committee, and chief of the Central Committee's Military Department, attended the meeting reporting on the work done by the Central Army during the past 3 years.

For 2 days the participants debated reports on military work and party policy at the Army level, as well as at the level of large units. They also discussed the Villa Clara General Staff, the school for alternate officials, political sections, and specialties.

The participants discussed the progress made and the deficiencies and difficulties that still exist, as well as the work underway to resolve these problems.

In conclusion, the results of the 1988 socialist emulation were made known.

Angolan Official Visits, To Sign Protocol

FL1801211989 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 2037 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Boaventura Cardoso, secretary of state for culture from the People's Republic of Angola, is visiting our country. He is in Cuba at the invitation of Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and culture minister.

During his stay, the Angolan official will meet with his Cuban counterpart, visit several cultural institutions, and sign a cultural protocol between his country and ours.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

FL2001023089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 0056 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] According to last minute reports, the Republics of Angola and Cuba today signed a cooperation protocol in the areas of education, culture, sports, radio, television, and the press.

Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and Cuban culture minister, and Boaventura Cardoso, Angolan secretary of state for culture, signed the document at the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Politburo, also participated in the ceremony.

Armando Hart stressed the possibilities of peace in Angola increasing that nation's cultural development. He also stressed the importance of cooperation between the two countries, which have common roots of identity.

Socialist Parliamentarians Tour EXPOCUBA

FL2001164789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] The delegations attending the consultative meeting of parliamentary groups from socialist countries being held [as heard] in our country have extensively toured various EXPOCUBA pavilions. They were able to verify the achievements made by the revolution in these 30 years.

The socialist parliamentarians were accompanied by Severo Aguirre del Cristo, member of the PCC Central Committee and acting president of the National Assembly of the Peoples' Government, and several deputies to our top government organ.

The visitors toured the transportation, steelworking industry, fishery, and machine building pavilions, among others, which are related to the industrial and social development of the country. The parliamentarians showed interest in the production of household goods and the productivity and durability of various components for machine tools. Another exposition that caught the attention of the visitors was the exhibit on the Cuban medical equipment industry.

Jakes Attends Reception at Cuban Embassy

FL1801165289 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Milos Jakes, general secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, attended a reception given by the Cuban Embassy in Prague last night on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the revolution. The top Czechoslovak party leader visited Cuba recently to attend the festivities.

University Marks Palestinian Anniversary
*FL1901233089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 2143 GMT 19 Jan 89*

[Text] A declaration of brotherhood between the Universities of Camaguey and (Berside) in the occupied West Bank was announced during the ceremony marking the 24th anniversary of the beginning of the Palestinian peoples' armed struggle against Zionist aggression.

(Ali Kasan), first secretary of the Palestine Liberation Movement, Fatah, and secretary general of the Union of Palestinian Students in Cuba, presided over the ceremony. He also expressed his appreciation for the exemplary demonstrations of solidarity received from the people, PCC, and Government of Cuba.

Bush To Honor International Commitments
*FL2001212489 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 2037 GMT 20 Jan 89*

[Text] George Bush took charge as President of the United States today in a ceremony that was held in Washington on the stairway of the Congress.

In his first presidential speech, Bush asked his fellow citizens not to distrust the government, a legacy from the Watergate scandal and the well-known Vietnam affair. Bush said that a nation cannot live on the memories of the problems originating in a war that began 25 years ago. Bush acknowledged that he is beginning his presidency with difficult problems such as his country's budget deficit, which this year went over \$250 billion.

The 41st President of the United States added that he will keep the international commitments made prior to his taking office, especially the agreements made with the Soviet Union.

Repairs Begin at Fire-Damaged Telephone Center
*FL2001141589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 89*

[Text] The civil reconstruction of the telephone center located at Aguila and Dragones Streets began last week. Workers of the ECOI [Industrial Projects Construction Enterprise] No 7, with the help of telephone enterprise workers, are working on the masonry and remodeling tasks needed for the installation of the new equipment already in Cuba.

Close to 34,000 telephone subscribers have been without service since the day of the fire and, because of this, workers of the sector are determined to complete the installation and adjustment tasks of the new equipment within a year in order to restore service.

An acid reaction took place in [words indistinct] walls and ceiling of the installation as a result of the November fire in Anguila and Dragones. This is why the old plaster and, in some areas, even the floor, had to be removed. Windows are being rebuilt and a new air conditioning

system is being designed. Construction workers hope to complete repair works in March, at which time the phone workers will begin to install the new equipment.

Fire 'Intentionally Set'
*FL2001211689 Havana Television Service in Spanish
0100 GMT 20 Jan 89*

[Text] To mark the fourth congress of communication workers, the collective of workers of the telephone plant located at Aguila and Dragones Streets in our capital, which was destroyed by a blaze that was intentionally set, have set as their goal their permanent support for the reconstruction of that building.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] We are cleaning equipment that can be reused. We will use some as spare parts, and the others we will make operational.

[Second speaker] On Saturdays and Sundays we have been devoting all our efforts [words indistinct] to mark the fourth congress of communication workers. [end recording]

The restoral of the equipment affected by the fire continues at Aguila and Dragones. About 100 pieces of equipment are ready to be used in improving operations and installing new lines.

The communication workers have also given their support in reconstructing the installations where the destroyed center will be located. A brigade is working there on a permanent basis and other workers join them at the conclusion of their daily work day.

Group No 4 of the Construction Ministry, made up of people from the eastern part of the nation, is demolishing the floors and walls and removing the surface from roofs and columns.

This work will be finished in approximately 3 months.

Sugar Mills Suffering From Electrical Shortages
*FL1801221089 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 2054 GMT 18 Jan 89*

[Text] Seventy-three sugar mills have lost work time during the last few days due to the shortages of electricity in storage and cleaning [as heard] centers. These shortages caused industries to close due to insufficient sugarcane processing. Since 1 January, 1,092 hours have been lost within 10 days.

The provinces affected most were Sancti Spiritus, Villa Clara, Las Tunas, and Camaguey. In the last 2 months of harvest, the lack of electricity has caused 115 processing plants to stop production. Even though warnings were given to try and avoid this problem, this harvest is becoming a copy of what happened in the previous harvest.

This harvest's large processing capabilities have been blocked by all types of deficiencies, including from the electrical service.

Earth Sciences Conference Discusses Erosion

*FL1801213789 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 2039 GMT 18 Jan 89*

[Text] With the participation of some 300 delegates, the First Congress of the Cuban Society of Earth Sciences continued today in Havana. The event is being held at the Ministry of Basic Industry's National School of Cadres and is meeting in three commissions. The first commission will study genesis, classification, and cartography. The second commission will deal with erosion, conservation, and improving the soil. The third commission will turn its attention to agricultural chemistry.

At the congress' opening, Eng (Avilio Cardenas), president of the Cuban Society of Earth Sciences, said that to a greater or lesser degree over 70 percent of the nation's soil suffers from erosion. He also said that in the present 5-year term, the nation emphasized the need to solve the problems that cause the damaging effects to agriculture, such as salinization and inadequate draining of the soil.

Commentary on Measures To Promote Tourism

*FL2001153689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 89*

[Clotilde Serrano commentary, read by announcer]

[Text] There is a need to create environmental conditions in our main cities to foster a substantial increase of tourists within the next few years. A number of measures have begun to be implemented to face the challenge of guaranteeing the maintenance of the most central areas of the city which, in fact, are of great tourist interest.

To achieve this, bilingual signs have been put up. They guide visitors to the main spots in the capital and contribute to the efforts being made in the country to give a swift response to the upcoming increased demand of international tourists.

At the same time, it is very important for the population to create pleasant conditions. Our country has been characterized by its traditional hospitality. This is why we cannot forget that each one of us is an important factor in terms of providing guidance and explaining the economic, political, and social situation of the country, as well as our history.

The population needs to become aware that it is important to preserve the original beauty of our monuments and central areas. The placement of souvenir shops and traditional restaurants in areas of tourist interest has also been a valuable initiative.

All these measures, which have already begun to be implemented for the benefit of tourists, will allow us to offer them a pleasant stay and our hospitality.

Commentary Urges Compliance With Africa Accord
*FL1901192089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Jan 89*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The FAR Ministry announced this morning the completion of the transfer of the first 3,000 Cuban internationalist combatants from Angolan territory in only 1 month. As our people already know, this contingent could have remained in Angola until 1 April, as was agreed between Havana and Luanda authorities. However, this group's 2,000 combatants, who have not arrived yet in the country, are already on their way to Havana. This goodwill gesture, as the FAR Ministry's note calls it, reiterates the seriousness with which Cuba is complying with the agreements.

It is appropriate to insist on this because Cuba expects that the tripartite agreements included in the Brazzaville protocol will be fulfilled with the same seriousness and responsibility. There is no room for any kind of ambiguity on this matter. We are aware of the nature of the apartheid regime and of those who encourage it—either subtly or openly—in its deceitful maneuvers.

We have already seen with concern in the past few days how attempts have been made to modify Resolution 435, which makes possible Namibia's independence. Undoubtedly, things like this create difficulties in the fulfillment of the agreements.

The wisest, serious, and responsible way is for each side to strictly adhere to the agreements. An attempt to take unilateral advantage is, in fact, to conspire against peace in southwest Africa. The process for Namibia's independence and the possibility of just and free elections should be guaranteed. The situation does not allow last minute tricks. Each side needs to assume its historic responsibility before the world.

Comparison of Report on Peace Accords

Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish at 0030 GMT on 15 January rebroadcasts the "Open Agenda" program carried on Havana Tele-Rebelde Network on 10 January and published on page 1 of the 13 January Latin American DAILY REPORT. The Cubavision version has been compared to the Havana Tele-Rebelde Network version, providing the following fills and additions:

Page two, column one, paragraph four, sentence one should read: ...the ocean in Namibe, in Lubango, to initially Matala. This line was... (correcting names)

Same column, paragraph six, sentence two should read: ...the line from Namibe, Lubango, and—at first—Matala; the line was later extended to Cubango and Menongue. As... (correcting names)

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Same column, paragraph six, sentence two should read: ...the line from Namibe, Lubango, and—at first—Matala; the line was later extended to Cubango and Menongue. As... (correcting names)

Same column, last paragraph, sentence one should read: ...Cuito Cuanavale and Mavinga and began an... (correcting name)

Page three, column two, paragraph three, sentence one should read: ...the areas of Donguena and Tchipa. This was enough... (correcting names)

Same column, penultimate paragraph, sentence three should read: ...perfecting the organizational structure of our units. (providing indistinct word)

Page four, first paragraph, sentence four should read: ...aviation grouping toward airbases that were constructed... (correcting queried word)

Page five, column one, paragraph four, sentence three should read: ...government is a sui generis mediator, who, for... (clearing indistinct word)

Page six, column one, paragraph four, penultimate sentence should read: ...so many capitals? Why did you talk about decisions, why so... (providing indistinct words)

Page seven, column one, paragraph four, only sentence should read: ...also received no support there.

[Rivero] They had no support.

[Aldana] They had... (clearing queried word, providing indistinct words)

Same column, penultimate paragraph, only sentence should read: ...during that discussion, we saw that more than once, the U.S. delegation... (clearing indistinct words)

Page eight, column one, last paragraph, sentence four should read: ...acted in a clearly favorable way toward South Africa. This diminished the efficiency of their gesture when we, in the discussions, made the United States see that point.

The United States... (providing indistinct words, rewording)

Column two, paragraph six, first sentence should read: ...stage they acted in a prejudiced manner toward Cuba and... (providing indistinct words)

Page 10, column one, paragraph six, sentence three should read: ...a unit called UNTAG [Grupo de Asistencia de la Naciones Unidas para el Periodo de Transicion], which is the... (correcting acronym here and throughout item, providing vernacular expansion)

Same paragraph, sentence four should read: ...now by the UN Security Council, as our comrade... (clearing indistinct words)

Page 12, column two, paragraph nine, first sentence should read: ...This resolution is the product of the Western world. No one knows the South Africans better

than they do. It is not in vain that they had seven battalions there. There is sufficient... (clearing queried words, providing indistinct words, rewording)

Bahamas

Pindling Addresses Issue of Loyalty, Service
FL2001233589 Nassau Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Pindling focused on economics, (?brash) leadership, and service at a Holy Cross constituency meeting last evening. He said his government is presently laying the groundwork for expansion of the economy and the capacity of [words indistinct].

[Begin Pindling recording] We have embarked on an aggressive new program of infrastructure and development that will permit economic development of all kinds to reach even the most isolated communities in our country. Roads, airports, docks, bridges, lights, telephones, and water are going in all the Bahamas. And while they are going in, they are creating new jobs and new homes, and new families, and new Bahamians. It is indeed new places where persons with initiative, vision, and determination will make a new start away from Nassau and earn their new [word indistinct]. [end recording]

The prime minister also dealt with black leadership. We give details now from Obie Wilchcombe:

Defending black leadership, Prime Minister Pindling asked what has happened to the concept of loyalty, saying the events of this week involving the member of parliament of the Marathon constituency and his attack on the FNM [Free National Movement] leadership is a lesson for all in general, but for the newest cabinet ministers in particular.

[Begin Pindling recording] When will we, as black people in this country, learn that if you got a problem with a brother, there is a proper place and a proper time to deal with it behind closed doors. [applause] Do we know no other way but to stab in the back? Are we so treacherous and immature that we are incapable of resolving a difficulty behind closed doors? The question must now be, however, who could ever trust a man like that again? Marathon, what have you done to yourself? [end recording]

He emphasized that at some point in time black Bahamian leadership must learn to find virtue in settling their grievances in the right place, in the right manner, and at the right time. In public, he said, it is not the right place. The prime minister asked what had the FNM won in the general elections 18 months ago:

[Begin Pindling recording] The only good thing about it is the FNM should now know the real reason why their party lost the last election. They also know the real reason why nothing came out of election court cases. But

it is still extremely regrettable that in the process they have deceived their leader and their party, subjected to a public hatchet job by a person who I think is not able to choose, much less fill Mr (Wallace Whitfield's) political shoes. [applause] [end recording]

The prime minister told the overflow crowd that it appears true that the TRIBUNE and (?Bay Street) have withdrawn their support from the FNM and its leadership and are supporting Mr Hubert Ingraham. However, he said, Mr Ingraham has some difficulties:

[Begin Pinding recording] Eighteen months have passed since the election and nothing has happened. So now, both FNM and the PLP [Progressive Liberal Party] look on Mr Ingraham with suspicion. Mr Ingraham's so-called third force is different from (Fred Mitchell's) so-called third force. [laughter] And the two third forces together don't make one single force. [laughter] Having told FNM and PLP what he did tell them in 1987, he will not be able to tell them the same thing in 1992. You see the status of an independent will be a non-status in 1992. I think they clearly have to be one or the other, PLP or FNM, in 1992. And whichever one he chooses to be, the voters of the other will feel betrayed because he didn't tell them in 1987. [laughter] His friend, Mr Perry Christie, has the identical same problem in (Centerville), and nobody is even interested in Mr (Hannah). [end recording]

Last night the prime minister had said that Mr Hubert Ingraham was suspended from the PLP, not expelled from the party. But today, Sir Lynden informed ZNS news that he had erred. The prime minister said he had been informed by PLP Secretary General Mr (Bernard Frat) that Mr Hubert Ingraham was suspended from the PLP by the national general council and was indeed expelled from the party by the party's national convention later in 1986.

The prime minister also told the meeting last evening that the government is not yet ready to state its case on national service, but that it had raised some questions that relate to service to the country. He said true commitment to leadership requires more than coming over the hill once in a blue moon to tell our brothers what to do, what not to do. He said: Instead of discouraging them from accepting what they need, young professionals should come up with a plan and the commitment to help our brothers reach their goal:

[Begin Pinding recording] And if they are really interested in true leadership and real service, call my brothers and sisters over the hill, to find out from them how many lawyers, for instance, will give one week, 5 working days a month for 3 years, to serve at the magistracy in the Family Island District. Which one? All these [words indistinct] talents, which one, 5 days a week, a month, for 3 years, to serve at the magistracy in the Family Island? How many will give 1 week a month, 5 working days for 3 years, to teach government and civics to a high school class in any part of the Bahamas? Which one of them will

give 5 days a month for 3 years to represent one single old person in court in carrying the title to her land or in any kind. Specific case: I am imagining the criminal one, just this only once, just once. (?Would) they want to give. But the lawyers find out from the doctors, like Dr (Lund). [sentence as heard] Which one of them will give 1 week, 5 working days a month for 3 years, to serve as an assistant medical officer and support the efforts of medical and public health officers in the Family Island community? [end recording]

Minister Carter Discusses National Service Bill
FL1901225289 Nassau Domestic Service in English
1800 19 Jan 89

[Text] Holy Cross MP [Minister of Parliament] Mr Charles Carter, who still heads a PLP [Progressive Liberal Party] parliamentary group selected to review information and encourage discussion on the first working draft bill for national service, addressed members of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and their guests last evening. The topic: national service.

Mr Carter told members of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and their guests that when the prime minister said at the last PLP convention that it was imperative to involve young Bahamians in a national service of character building, pride, discipline, industry, and a sense of Bahamian identity, he was returning to a theme developed 15 years ago, (?forging) a recognition that our people needed to be involved in nation building. He said every Bahamian has something to say about national service, and even though some have said kill the bill, many are thinking that something must be done about some serious problems in the country.

[Begin Carter recording] PLP's traditional approach to the question is, and this was agreed in 1974, that the Bahamian people be extensively informed, the objectives of the program be clearly outlined, that there be a broad-based community acceptance, and that it be voluntary. The Ministries of Youth and Education have done some extensive work in the general direction of a national service. Youth, the Ministry of Youth especially, has looked at working models the world over, has consulted with religious and youth groups in this country, and will probably in the very near future be producing a Bahamian model based on Bahamian principles, taking into account Bahamian factors, for the betterment of the Bahamian community. It is still the PLP's position that national service be widely [word indistinct], that as many Bahamians as possible be informed about the objectives, the form and conditions of national service, and that the country be consulted at every (?chance), and at every step of the way. [end recording]

The chairman of the PLP parliamentary group selected to encourage discussion on the national service idea said: We must begin to identify areas in the community where one might serve. Mr Carter painted this scenario:

[Being Carter recording] Bahamians themselves are the greatest asset this country has. The sun, the sand, and the sea that coerce the people to be attracted to our country will not be enough to keep them coming if our people don't have manners. If young Bahamians do not feel they have something at stake in this country, they will not protect what you and I have built. Too many young people are being brought up by young people. Too many parents have abandoned their families. The family does not exist in many homes of our country. The churches do not have a hold they once had, and we are caught in a value system fueled by the omnipresent satellite and the VCR machine. When I read about schools today, it is a visit to a war zone where parents are absent. The children sometimes come. Teachers and the administration are in perpetual conflict about facilities, wages, and conditions of service. You never have them arguing or talking much about the quality of education. In some schools, it doesn't exist. When seven kids of the 5,000 plus get an A in English, and over half of them, Bahamian-wide, failed religious knowledge in last year's BJC [expansion unknown] examinations, you know the school and the church aren't what they used to be. We have to do something, the problems will not go away. There must be concerted effort to arrest these faults before a general decay sets in. [end recording]

Mr Carter said the committee has sifted through most of the published criticisms and privately written letters on the draft national service bill. He said the committee intends to publish a position paper in a few months and discuss the matters throughout the country.

Barbados

Unions Give Ultimatum on Salary Hikes
FL1901215689 Bridgetown CANA in English
1835 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 19, CANA—The National Union of Public Workers [NUPW], which represents the majority of civil servants, has given the Barbados Government until January 26 to resume stalemated salary negotiations or face the prospects of industrial action.

The talks, which started mid-1988, broke down last month. The union is seeking a pay hike of 9.7 per cent for public servants at the bottom of the pay scale and one of 5 per cent for those at the top. The government has offered an eight per cent increase for those [words indistinct] for the others.

"We have been given a mandate by our members to maintain our positions and they are willing to continue with the struggle," NUPW General-Secretary Joseph Goddard was quoted by the BARBADOS ADVOCATE as saying after a union meeting Wednesday.

Earlier this month Goddard told reporters he expected an early settlement since there was a mere BDS250,000 dollar (one BDS dollar-50 U.S. cents) gap between its demands and the government's offer.

The Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT) which held a meeting with its members Wednesday, decided to call a half-day meeting on the salaries issue for early next week.

So far the Barbados Workers' Union and the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union have settled with the government and the police have declared a conditional acceptance of the pay offer. The salaries talks have been going on since the middle of last year.

Jamaica

Manley Warns Against Selling Radio Station
FL1901220589 Bridgetown CANA in English
2131 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Montego Bay, Jamaica, Jan 19, CANA—Opposition leader Michael Manley has warned the government against any pre-election divestment of the state-owned radio service, the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC), saying the agreement would be revoked if he won the February 9 general election.

"I say don't touch the central corpus of the JBC until the people have spoken," Manley declared at a news conference here Wednesday. "And I warn them if they divest central JBC in the few days that remain, then they know that I shall re-nationalise it and give full compensation the day after," he added.

In its media divestment programme, Prime Minister Edward Seaga's administration is selling off the AM system of JBC Radio and three small regional stations. It has already granted licences to operators of the radio services, including one that would apparently take-over the JBC's national AM network.

However, the divestment plans were held up by a court injunction, sought by the GLEANER newspaper company, which stayed the government from granting a national radio licence.

The GLEANER, whose case was adjourned late last year without a date fixed for a resumption, had sought to have its own application for a radio licence considered.

Manley's party has been against the selling of the JBC, which has over the years been the subject of criticism because of reported political manipulation by incumbent governments. But the PNP [People's National Party] has said that it would deal with that problem by changing the law to allow the JBC to have a board, similar to the body that runs elections here with members from the two major political parties and independent members appointed by the governor general.

According to Manley, "successive governments have corrupted the JBC" but he planned to change this and restore the station's credibility.

Under Seaga's divestment plan, the government would keep the JBC's FM system to develop a new public broadcasting system that would deal with more indepth social and cultural issues.

Also falling under the PBS would be a government television service, though the existing JBC television would also be sold.

Seaga Criticizes Manley Plan

*FL2001213089 Bridgetown CANA in English
2029 GMT 20 Jan 89*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 20, CANA—Prime Minister Edward Seaga has criticised opposition leader Michael Manley for threatening to take back the AM radio service of the state-owned Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation [JBC] if it is divested before the February 9 general election.

Seaga said that Manley had made "unwarranted threats" against investors and would have no legal grounds to cancel licences to operate radio services. "If Mr Manley and the (opposition) Peoples National Party are signalling that they would embark on expropriation if elected, they should say so quite clearly as this could have the most serious consequences for Jamaica both locally and abroad," Seaga said in a statement.

Under the Seaga government's media divestment plans, the JLP [Jamaican Labor Party] administration is to turn over to the private sector the JBC's AM radio service as well as three small regional stations.

Last September the government announced that it had granted a licence for the operation of the three regional stations as well as for a national radio service operating on AM with rebroadcast on FM. But it is not clear whether divestment meant also leasing or selling to the company that has the national broadcast licences lease of JBC AM transmitters or studios.

At a press conference Wednesday Manley warned the government against any rush to divest the "central corpus" of the JBC in the short period before elections. "I say don't touch the central corpus of the JBC until the people have spoken," he said. "And I warn them that if they divest central JBC in the few days that remain, then they know that I shall re-nationalise it and give full compensation the day after."

The JBC has often been accused of operating to the political whims of the party in power. But Manley has promised that he would deal with the problem by establishing an independent board to operate along the licences of the electoral committee here.

That committee is made up of representatives of both parties and independent members appointed solely at the discretion of the governor general.

Under Seaga's plan the government would maintain control of the JBC's FM service which would be the core of a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) that would also operate a television service. There were originally plans to divest the existing JBC television service but no licences have yet been granted for new companies to run television.

The government has not yet announced the full terms of the radio licences, but the issue is in court at the instigation of the GLEANER newspaper company. The GLEANER is part of a consortium that applied for a radio licence but its proposal was not considered because it did not undertake to abide by the terms of the draft licences.

The courts stayed the government from granting the radio licence to the successful bidder, but hearing on the matter was adjourned late last year.

Seaga said that the terms of the radio licences, would ensure broad ownership of the companies, and competition would increase while the government through the FM and television services could meet the needs for cultural and educational broadcasting.

Manley Requests Meeting With Prime Minister

*FL2101171189 Bridgetown CANA in English
1445 GMT 21 Jan 89*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 21, CANA—Jamaica's opposition leader, Michael Manley, has called for a meeting with Prime Minister Edward Seaga before Monday's nomination of election candidates to agree on further initiatives to head off further political skirmishes here in the campaign for the February 9 general election.

"Mr Manley has written to Mr Seaga asking for an urgent meeting in light of developments of the past 3 days," People's National Party [PNP] chairman, P.J. Patterson, told journalists. Senior Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and government officials were not available for comment.

There have been flare-ups in recent days between supporters of Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party and PNP supporters in Spanish Town, west of Kingston, and in St Thomas in the east. In St Thomas the incident involved a motorcade in which Manley was travelling, and which PNP officials said was attacked by government supporters. The JLP supporters claimed that they were attacked first.

Patterson said that apart from whatever either leader might propose at a meeting, the Seaga-Manley summit would also discuss ideas for strengthening their electoral code of conduct suggested by lower level officials on Monday. Last Monday's meeting between the party chairmen and general secretaries was called by the JLP,

which complained of attacks on buses carrying supporters to a rally the night before. Police also reported opposition supporters being attacked from buses going from the rally at which Prime Minister Seaga announced the election date.

The JLP charged that the accord, agreed to by the parties last August, was not working and that Jamaica was in danger of having an election similar to 1980. But despite regular statements about the weakness of the accord and its failure to prevent violence, analysts point out that in Jamaica there has been a vast improvement on the conduct of recent contested elections.

In 1980 hundreds died in a bitter 7 month campaign and the election of 1976 was not without its share of violence.

Though several persons have been injured especially during motorcades there have been no deaths positively linked to the election, though there is speculation that the shootings of one man to death and wounding of three others by gunmen in Spanish Town Thursday night might have been connected to a clash in the town earlier in the day. Several influential persons have called for an end to motorcades, saying that they were provocative and provided opportunities for violence.

Patterson, who announced that his party would unveil its manifesto on Tuesday, said that though the PNP would continue whistle-stop meetings in constituencies it did not plan any more of the major motorcades that snaked their way across the island. The PNP chairman also disclosed that the party would wind up its campaign 2 days before the election. "There will be no campaigning by the PNP on Ash Wednesday (the day preceding the election)," he said.

Foreign Minister Discusses Current Policy Goals
PA2201222789 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish
18 Jan 89 p 3

[Report by Luz Arcelia Camarena M.]

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Solana Morales yesterday stressed that the strengthening and defense of our national sovereignty and the economic development of our country are basic goals in President Salinas de Gortari's foreign policy.

The foreign minister said during a lunch for the diplomatic corps and representatives of international agencies accredited to Mexico that the principles that guide Mexico's foreign policy will continue to be the norms that guide our nation.

Solana said that the Mexican Constitution lists seven of those principles: the people's self-determination, nonintervention in the affairs of other nations, peaceful solutions to controversies, banning the threat or use of force, juridical equality of states, international cooperation, and the struggle for international peace and security. The foreign minister asserted that these principles and guidelines make up a well-known doctrine. Mexico defends and upholds those principles and guidelines to achieve its foreign policy goals and to help improve relations between nations, he added.

Solana Morales stated: We are aware that profound changes are steadily taking place in the world. Detente between the two great powers has created new opportunities for negotiations and dialogue which would have been unthinkable months ago.

He added: We are pleased to see how specific deadlines are established for the achievement of solutions to conflicts in developing nations that threaten the stability of the international system in general. Disarmament agreements have been achieved, and they represent the first step toward guaranteeing the survival of present and future generations.

In sum, he emphasized that we now live in a political atmosphere where agreements and negotiations replace stubbornness and violence.

The late 1980's have also allowed progress in the democratization process of the American countries, he said. Solana Morales added that the efforts exerted to strengthen mechanisms for agreements and communication in the area have begun to achieve favorable results. The results will undoubtedly be very useful, given the great economic challenges that exist in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Furthermore, he said, the international economy is also at a crossroads. It is necessary to find a solution to the foreign debt problem, which has precluded development in large regions of the world, particularly in Latin America.

"We have asserted that it is necessary to grow before paying. Thus, it is fundamental for debtor and creditor nations—not only the former—to jointly seek a feasible and efficient way to solve the problem. Likewise, the rules of international commerce must be adequately changed to attain a more just and balanced development between the various regions and countries of the world.

Further on Arrest of Union Leader, Reaction

Galicia: Charges 'Prefabricated'
PA2201153789 Mexico City UNOMASUNO
in Spanish 13 Jan 89 pp 1, 11

[Report by Hector A. Gonzalez]

[Excerpts] Joaquin Hernandez Galicia, alias La Quina, in more than just testimony, gave a speech before the judge yesterday.

This is what was registered in the court document:

"I am innocent. All of this is a dirty lie prefabricated by [former Pemex Director] Mario Ramon Beteta and certain government officials of present and past administrations—[former Secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources] Eduardo Pesqueira and [former Pemex Director] Francisco Rojas—who are upset because of our criticism of the government, our teaching other unions and social or political groups how to solve the crisis and the foreign debt problem, and, above all, our advocating that the nation's properties and natural resources must be solely run by the state for the Mexican people's benefit."

Hernandez Galicia spoke for almost 4 hours at the Third Secretariat of the Ninth Penal District Court located at the Eastern Penitentiary. There were more than 100 people there: reporters, photographers, lawyers, and some La Quina sympathizers, who were shouting: "We are with you, Joaquin! Hit them hard, Joaquin! We are going to hit traitors hard!" [passage omitted]

Hernandez Galicia—who is 67 years old and has an income that, he declared, ranges between 6 and 7 million pesos a month—complained to the judge that "although they treated me well," Federal Judicial Police agents threatened that if he did not sign the confession with "prefabricated crimes," they were going "to mercilessly kill workers" who refused to go to work.

Regarding this, the "moral leader" of the Pemex union urged all members of that union to "continue working, as they have always done, patriotically and efficiently." He asked them "not to stop working and to protect their jobs, as they have always done since the oil expropriation."

He said he felt humiliated "by this infamy" and urged Confederation of Mexican Workers [CTM] Secretary General Fidel Velazquez "to help us, because this is an action that destroys the little autonomy that exists within the government.

"At the CTM, we boast of being autonomous because the legal right of society, unionism, and the people come first." [passage omitted]

La Quina said: "We support the good actions of the current administration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who should not permit this maneuver, which is not only aimed at dismantling the Pemex union, but the other unions and their leaders."

Hernandez Galicia—who is from Veracruz and was accused of four crimes (homicide, illegal entry, resisting arrest, and storing firearms reserved for the exclusive use of the Army, Navy, and Air Force)—noted:

"We do not oppose the government or the people. We are proud men, not lackeys. The people support us with this same pride. We ask you not to abandon us. This is the struggle of the true Mexicans who love Mexico against those who do not love it." [passage omitted]

Speaking about Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, he said he "has never denied his friendship. We have always liked men and political parties that are nationalist and independent. Everyone knows we loaned money to Cardenas to finance his political campaign when he ran for governor of Michoacan. Fidel Velazquez knows that."

He said he fears for his life "because I am the victim of an arbitrary and political action." Therefore, he emphasized, "we are always accompanied by security personnel, because we could be killed."

La Quina said he does not believe his party, the PRI, has abandoned them: Perhaps "our leaders have, but the worker and peasant sectors are with us." [passage omitted]

'Political' Motive Denied

PA2301173989 Mexico City UNOMASUNO
in Spanish 17 Jan 89 pp 1, 5

[Report by Ricardo del Muro, Hector G. Gonzales, Juan Guzman, Cesar Romero Jacobo, and Oscar Vazquez]

[Excerpt] Government Secretary Fernando Gutierrez Barrios said yesterday that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari is firmly determined to respect "and demand respect for legal order, without exceptions or privileges." Therefore, he has taken measures provided by the law to prevent persons or groups of persons from carrying out illegal actions, damaging society, disrupting public order, and flouting the law.

During a meal at Los Pinos with the president and the country's 31 governors, Gutierrez Barrios explained that "if the measures to protect the existence of legal order have hit persons who were leaders of the labor movement, it has presumably happened because they violated the law, not for being representatives of a union or for political or labor reasons."

Gutierrez Barrios said the modernization promoted by Salinas de Gortari demands the active participation of the workers "as the principal actors and beneficiaries of the country's development."

He added that the protection of legal order is essential for the flowering and development of democracy. He affirmed that the state will continue to protect "through the Constitution" the victories of the workers, respecting collective bargaining, the right to strike, freedom of association, and union autonomy.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office reported yesterday having discovered bank accounts in the United States totaling more than \$3 million in the names of oil labor leaders Joaquin Hernandez Galicia, alias La Quina; Salvador Barragan Camacho and Sergio Bolanos Quezada (whose names were used by La Quina); and Jose Cruz Contreras (who apparently supplied the weapons to the moral leader of the oil union).

The Attorney General's Office said it is already negotiating with the Foreign Affairs Secretariat to use diplomatic channels to "freeze" the bank deposits of the four former labor leaders. The Attorney General's Office added that it had also traced bank withdrawals of more than 1 billion pesos in several Mexico City bank branches. These withdrawals were made by Victorino Lopez and Miguel Estrada, president and secretary, respectively, of the contract commission of the oil union's general committee.

It was also reported that federal authorities are guarding two Corvette jets presumably owned by the oil union, which were supposedly used by La Quina and Barragan Camacho on their pleasure trips to the United States and Europe. According to civil aeronautics officials, the jets have sufficient range to fly to Europe and cost approximately \$60 million each. [passage omitted]

Director Denies Privatization of Pemex

PA1901154589 Mexico City XHTV Television
in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded comments by Pemex Director Francisco Rojas]

[Text] The secretary of energy, mines, and parastate industry and the director of Pemex have denied reports about the alleged privatization of some of Pemex's exclusive activities. They also discarded the possibility of distributing the functions of the parastate enterprise.

Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry Secretary Fernando Hiriat said today that Pemex will not be privatized because it is and it will continue to be owned by the Mexican people. He said the nation will not renounce the ownership and utilization of oil and will continue carrying out through Pemex the activities the law allows.

Mr Hiriart and Pemex Director Francisco Rojas stated the government's position regarding the alleged privatization of the enterprise. Mr Rojas said Pemex will maintain its production of primary petrochemical products:

"None of the activities the Constitution assigns to the nation in the hydrocarbons field will be yielded to any national or foreign person. Any report to the contrary is the result of ignorance, ill will, or a wish to confuse the people."

Mr Rojas also denied any sharing of functions in the enterprise he directs:

"We want to categorically state that there is not and there has not been any plan to share the functions Pemex has been carrying out up until now. We are obligated to make this parastate enterprise more efficient and more productive every day."

Mr Rojas said his enterprise will respect labor union autonomy:

"We do not meddle and will not meddle in the decisions the workers freely adopt regarding labor union life and organization."

Visiting Indonesian Minister Discusses Oil

PA1801044289 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 16 Jan 89

[Passages in quotation marks are recorded in English with simultaneous Spanish translation]

[Text] Upon his arrival in Mexico, Indonesian Mining and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said that to stabilize the world oil market, it is necessary for OPEC member countries to abide by their summit agreements and for the independent oil-producing nations to cooperate in achieving this goal.

[Kartasasmita] "The results of the November OPEC meeting are already evident. In other words, oil prices have risen. For that trend to continue, however, we must meet at least two conditions: OPEC member countries must abide by the agreements they signed at the summit, and non-OPEC oil-producing countries must cooperate."

Minister Kartasasmita, who also visited Ecuador and Colombia, talked about one of OPEC's current priorities.

[Kartasasmita] "Mexico is a very important oil-producing country. I believe it is the fourth- or fifth-largest oil producer in the world. Without Mexico's cooperation, I do not think we will achieve any substantial results."

The Indonesian energy minister added that the ideal oil price this year would be \$18 a barrel.

During his stay in Colombia, Minister Kartasasmita said it would be possible to hold a meeting of oil-producing countries to stabilize the world market. Kartasasmita made this statement in response to a proposal by Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez, who last week expressed the need for a meeting of presidents of oil-producing countries.

Kartasasmita said that although the oil market reacted favorably to the most recent OPEC agreement, it is still necessary to make additional efforts.

Debt Renegotiation Undersecretariat Created

FL1801204189 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0108 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Mexico, 17 January (NOTIMEX)—By presidential accord, the Undersecretariat for International Financial Affairs under the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit was created today. The head of the new undersecretariat will be Jose Angel Gurria Trevino.

The purpose of the new department will be to make possible active and efficient action by the federal government in the area of the renegotiation of the foreign debt. This will also permit the administrative corps, which is in charge of paying the foreign debt to world financial organizations, banks, and other foreign entities, to become specialized. [passage omitted]

Changes in Televisa's Management Announced

FL1701175389 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0230 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Emilio Azcaraga Milmo is the new director of the private television consortium Televisa. He is replacing Miguel Aleman Velasco, who was appointed ambassador for special missions by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. This was reported by Romulo O'Farril, Jr, chairman of Televisa's administration council. He added that Aleman Velasco will remain vice president of the council.

For his part, Miguel Angel Villa, the Televisa press chief, said journalist Guillermo Ochoa is no longer part of the Ecco system or the company because he did not agree with the line followed by the news system.

Villa added that this is something that had dragged on for a long time and the company had wanted to keep the details private. However, the reports indicate that Ochoa did not agree with internal policies and working methods. Villa denied that Ochoa's entire working team left with him. The only one who left was Patricia Martinez, his secretary and coordinator, but he said most of the reporters who worked with him are part of a pool of the news directorate and will continue providing their services to the company.

Costa Rica

Government Wants Explanation for Air Violation PA2201005389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Excerpts] San Jose, 21 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—At the upcoming meeting of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan Mixed Commission, during which the problems between the two countries will be discussed, Costa Rica will demand an explanation for the violation of Costa Rican airspace by three Nicaraguan military helicopters.

The Nicaraguan helicopters, flying at an altitude of 150 meters, flew over the Costa Rican border posts of Pocosol, Las Delicias, and El Cachito.

The fourth meeting of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan Mixed Commission will be held on 23 January at a farm in La Cruz de Guanacaste, Costa Rica, only a few kilometers from the border between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Monday's meeting will begin at 0900 (1500 GMT). Nicaragua will be represented by Commander Roberto Calderon, and Costa Rica will be represented by Public Security Ministry official Marino Sagot. [passage omitted]

Vice President on Anti-Inflation Measures PA2101164589 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] The government has proposed a social contract to control inflation as part of efforts to decrease government expenses and prevent the country's impoverishment. The economic council has analyzed the causes of inflation, especially the causes of spiralling inflation in the last 3 months of 1988.

It has also discussed measures to break the the inflation cycle, assuring the country that every possible effort will be made.

Following the guidelines for the war on inflation set by President Oscar Arias, the economic council made a general appeal for all Costa Ricans to take a stand on inflation. Vice President Jorge Manuel Dengo, economic council spokesman, said that inflation has three basic aspects: the psychological aspect of insecurity about the value of the currency, which leads people to spend rather than save, and the political aspect that lies in pressure felt by candidates for elective office. [no third aspect as heard]

Dengo said that since the previous administration, the government has been working in four basic fields against inflation.

Regarding the creation of a policy for structural changes and for sustained economic development, Dengo said that during the last 5 years, the national economy has been growing at an average rate of just over 3.5 percent.

Dengo said that when one talks about economic recovery, one has to see its results. If results are not seen, one can expect growth at the rate it was before the recovery plan was implemented. In the 1970's, the situation was different, because the prices of our products were very good and we had the Central American Common Market.

Dengo added that Costa Ricans must reduce expenses. Among the anti-inflation guidelines, the economic council warned that Costa Ricans must reduce their consumption. It is important to adopt an austere attitude, because as long as people keep spending money there will be more circulating cash and inflation will increase.

The government will ask banks to grant credits to the productive sector and not the consumption sector to reduce inflation.

According to the government's economic council, the anti-inflation measures will not affect the country's economic growth. The government has been working in four basic fields—fiscal, monetary, prices, and wages. Those fields will be adjusted so that the focus of the various government institutions managing those fields will be much more precise.

Dengo said the government will present all its anti-inflation measures in 3 or 4 weeks.

Finance Minister Comments on Economic Outlook PA2201133089 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Jan 89 p 6

["Exclusive" interview with Finance Minister Fernando Naranjo by Wilmer Murillo; date and place not given]

[Text] [Murillo] Costa Rica is in a preelectoral period. What effect do you think this will this have on the economy?

[Naranjo] In Costa Rica, preelectoral years have been hard to handle economically. There will be many electoral pressures during 1989. The government's ability to skirt them and continue the progress of the past 2 and 1/2 years with the program of structural adjustment, reactivation of private activities, and the boom in exports will be tested.

[Murillo] How much will production grow in 1989?

[Naranjo] A number of factors will result in a very large growth in production, which will range between 4 and 5 percent. To begin with, the momentum in the area of investments and exports is quite strong. We will have a "record" coffee crop that will coincide with a significant improvement in coffee prices on the international market. The growth in industrial activities will continue to be sound. Construction will experience an unusual boom. Activities such as stock-raising and production of

basic grains, which had declined, will show some reactivation following the fiscal effort that was made by transferring the farmers' debts to the government to make the farmers creditworthy again.

[Murillo] It is being said that public finances will be the Achilles heel of the economy in 1989. Do you think so?

[Naranjo] We have been reorganizing public finances for the past 5 years. At the beginning of this decade, the nonfinancial public sector deficit, excluding the Central Bank, was 14 percent of the GNP. In 1987, that deficit had virtually disappeared, and in 1988 there was a modest 230-million-colons surplus. We reversed a deficit that constituted a destabilization factor in our economy into a healthier situation that is currently an example not only to Central America, but to Latin America and other places in the world. But this did not come easily. This was achieved by tightening expenditures; approving a tax reform, the effects of which will be fully felt this year; and reducing central government transfers to other state institutions.

[Murillo] What imbalances will the 1989 economy have?

[Naranjo] I am concerned about three noncircumstantial factors that will be looming over the future of public finances. The first factor pertains to the salary problem and judicial rulings that impose burdens on the government and decentralized organizations and that are beyond their capabilities. The second factor pertains to pensions. Despite efforts to rationalize them, government pensions are growing 35 percent yearly. The third factor is the payment of interest on the domestic debt. In the past, Costa Rica supported domestic credit through the issuance of bonds, and it is now facing the consequences. We must pay off interest on those bonds and take care of the debt, which is 15.17 percent of national budget expenditures. Those three factors exert pressure on the handling of public finances. However, if the government maintains its 1987 and 1988 public finances policy, there is no reason for those factors to become an Achilles heel in 1989. If expenditures increase or tax revenues fall behind expectations, they could indeed become serious problems.

[Murillo] What would you say to those who doubt the government will be able to reduce inflation in 1989?

[Naranjo] First, we must admit that the government was unsuccessful in its attempt to lower inflation. A number of factors converged to block our efforts in 1988. The first factor was a 6-percent exchange rate adjustment the Central Bank was forced to make in early 1988 to limit the growth of imports that in turn helped accelerate inflation. The second factor was a bank money issuance to avoid a generalization of the financial crisis that was threatening to spread from financial organizations to private banks. The third factor was government incentives for investment programs of private companies.

Another factor was our paying attention to debt conversion titles. The last factor was the weather. Those circumstantial factors will be absent this year. We will advocate a policy of moderate exchange rate readjustments. Most adjustments on prices and public service fares have already been made, and we believe that the fiscal situation can be handled within reasonable limits to avoid threatening stability.

[Murillo] It has been predicted that 1989 will be characterized by greater economic growth and greater flexibility in the balance of payments, but also by a greater fiscal imbalance. Do you agree with this prediction?

[Naranjo] I do think production will increase and there will be greater flexibility in the balance of payments as a result of increased profits from coffee and banana production and because of the Legislative Assembly's approval of several foreign loans. The government must very carefully examine the possibility of greater fiscal imbalance.

[Murillo] How important is the refinancing of the foreign debt for a good economy?

[Naranjo] Costa Rica's economic situation would be very delicate if the country had to pay off the foreign debts and all the interest. The fact that we have not done so has greatly contributed to the economic reactivation our country has experienced for the past 3 years.

[Murillo] What are the main difficulties the Finance Ministry faces in stabilizing public finances?

[Naranjo] Costa Ricans have no tax awareness whatsoever. They not only neglect to pay their taxes but actually enjoy not paying them. Our first difficulty involves adequate tax collection, which is something we are working on overcoming. Our second difficulty is the amount of pressure we receive from government employees, executive presidents, and colleagues to increase public spending. Our country's development has made its relations with international organizations more important than ever. This deprives the finance minister of a great amount of time needed to solve domestic problems. In addition, Costa Rica has not been able to obtain foreign resources for the last 2 years. This has made financial stabilization more difficult. We have had to resort to domestic financing. That is another difficulty.

[Murillo] Will the redirection of financial resources to support government programs keep interest rates high?

[Naranjo] In 1988, the government used very few domestic financial resources to cover public expenditures. We resorted to resources from the Costa Rican Social Security Institute and state bank surpluses. We did not resort to inflation or to obtaining resources from the capital market.

[Murillo] Will this year's housing program deprive other economic programs of resources?

[Naranjo] The housing program is basically financed in its entirety. A portion of the budget has been allotted to this project. It is also financially backed by the IDB and AID. I would say we have already defined the financing for the housing sector. Therefore, the president's goal of building 80,000 houses should not negatively affect other economic programs.

Supreme Court To Dismiss OIJ Officials

PA2301013289 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish
0100 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] From one to three high-ranking Judicial Investigations Agency [OIJ] officers will be dismissed from their posts, as agreed at a meeting held last night at the Supreme Court of Justice between the members of the [Assembly] commission investigating drug trafficking and 11 Supreme Court magistrates. Yesterday, [Deputy] Alberto Fait, president of the commission conducting the investigation on drug trafficking, stated that corruption in the judicial branch is worse than [the court] thinks it is. Alberto Fait said the commission has found that there have been leaks and improper actions in some judicial branch institutions.

This does not mean, Fait said, that the commission does not have confidence in the work performed by the Supreme Court of Justice. The commission has a profound respect for the Supreme Court.

Referring to [National Liberation Party Deputy] Leonel Villalobos' attacks, Deputy Alberto Fait said he will not make any comment but will file the corresponding charges at the appropriate level.

According to information obtained by the Assembly commission investigating drug trafficking, several investigations conducted by the authorities were carried out in a corrupt manner. Among them, the commission mentioned [an investigation] being conducted by two agents involving the use of dollars laundered through a mutual funds institution. The investigation was about to conclude when it was suspended on orders from a high-ranking official.

It has also been learned that a report [is being prepared] on an important investigation in which someone attempted to introduce false information. This could involve one of the members of the commission investigating drug trafficking.

Legislator Reports Murder Plot From Panama

PA2301124589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0431 GMT
21 Jan 89

[Text] San Jose, 20 Jan (AFP)—Legislator Alberto Fait today reported a plan masterminded from Panama that threatens the lives of members of the legislative commission investigating drug trafficking in Costa Rica.

Amid a heated argument that has shaken the country's congress since the commission presented its first report in November—which sought the resignation of three magistrates, one deputy, and one ambassador—Fait gave details on 19 January concerning Judicial Investigation Agency inquiries into "the existence of a plot to kill several deputies on the commission."

Progovernment Legislator Leonel Villalobos—whose resignation was requested by the commission—accused Fait of having received money from Panama through Cuban-American Fernando Melo for the presidential campaign of Luis Alberto Monge (1982-1986). The charge has been rejected by Fait.

The special commission questioned Villalobos on his relationship with Melo, who is sought in the United States on drug trafficking charges. Melo is a friend of Argentine Roberto Fionna, extradited from Costa Rica to France in October, where he is accused of smuggling a heroin shipment.

Deputy Villalobos gave assurances of having nothing to do with any type of international plot and said everything is a result of "a smokescreen Deputy Alberto Fait is trying to put up." Fait and Villalobos belong to the same party.

Villalobos said: "Fait wants to stir up a storm by saying he has received death threats. I could say the same."

Defending himself, Deputy Villalobos accused Luis Fishman, Social Christian Unity Party opposition deputy—a commission member—of protecting Singaporean Sheik Sahib Tajudeen, sought by French authorities on drug trafficking charges.

Visibly annoyed, Fishman denied before the plenum having defended the Singaporean, who is under investigation by the drug trafficking commission. Fishman denied before the commission having given economic aid to Rafael Angel Calderon, a former Social Christian Unity Party presidential candidate.

Seeing that the confrontations at the plenum were reaching a pitch, Congress President Jose Luis Valenciano ordered that internal security be reinforced.

The drug trafficking commission will analyze the Tajudeen case, the arrival in Costa Rica in 1985 of Mexican Rafael Caro Quintero, and the deeds of U.S. citizen John Hull.

Hull was arrested the previous week, following a judicial investigation carried out at the request of the Congress. Hull is accused of allegedly committing "hostile acts" against the country's security.

Javier Solis, legislator of the leftist United People Coalition, told AFP that within 2 weeks he will present before the commission, national and international documentation giving proof of the alleged links of "Hull with drug trafficking and the contras."

El Salvador

Electoral Council President To Talk With FMLN
PA2201231889 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL
in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jan 89

["Excerpt" of news conference by Ricardo Perdomo, president of the Central Electoral Council, in San Salvador on 20 January—recorded]

[Text] The efforts to achieve peace have been unsuccessful to date. The key to the problem lies in being ready to take the path that will really lead to peace and to seek the real interests and aspirations of all Salvadorans. We need a peace that will not [words indistinct], a peace in which there are no victors or none vanquished. We need a peace that is the result of understanding and consensus among all the country's active forces who will work hard for the people's welfare within democracy and our Constitution.

Therefore, as president of the Central Electoral Council [CCE], I want to issue a fervent call to the FMLN General Command so that the members of the FMLN General Command and I can hold an honest, respectful, and sincere dialogue as soon as possible to achieve agreements that will permit the Salvadoran people to hold presidential and vice presidential elections in a climate of absolute and unlimited freedom and peace, and to freely elect their government leaders throughout the national territory, so that all political parties can freely carry out their campaigns, without hindrance, in every corner of the country. Through this dialogue, I hope [we can find] the means to give the Salvadoran people clean, representative, and fair elections with the broadest freedom of expression and the ability to travel about freely and safely. The elections are an irreversible historic event that can bring peace to our country.

I wish to meet with the FMLN commanders at a site of their choosing inside the national territory and on the day and hour that they deem advisable. I only ask that the meeting also be attended by eminent witnesses who will attest to the seriousness of the agreements that we might reach. These witnesses would be representatives of friendly countries accredited in El Salvador. For this purpose, I officially request that the ambassadors of Spain and the Dominican Republic be present as eminent witnesses of these talks between the FMLN General Command and myself, as CCE president, as soon as possible, to guarantee to the Salvadoran people elections with peace and freedom so that together we can choose the leaders the Salvadoran people desire.

Democratic Convergence Joins Electoral Race
PA2401032289 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The Democratic Convergence [CD] has filed for coalition status at the Central Elections Council [CCE] for the coming elections.

The general secretaries of the three parties that compose the CD, accompanied by a group of their supporters, went to the CCE to take the legal step described by the CCE President Ricardo Perdomo as a historic act.

[Begin recording] [Perdomo] On behalf of the CCE I extend to you our warmest welcome. We are at your service. The CCE is determined to guarantee impartially the integrity, honesty, and equality of the elections and to let the Salvadoran people elect their own future leaders.

[Unidentified CD member] Aware of its historic duty at this time of political crisis and urgently seeking an alternative political instrument capable of conveying the Salvadoran majority's concerns, interests, and hopes, we have decided to participate as a coalition in the coming 1989 presidential elections, acting within legal guidelines and complying with the CCE's call to elections. [end recording]

Should the election process continue normally, it will be the first time a leftist coalition joins the race with a real chance to attain some measure of real power in the Salvadoran Government. Prior to 1979, a number of left-wing parties legally participated in the electoral process but institutional fraud frustrated their efforts.

CD's Roldan Explains Election Participation
PA2001201789 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] The National Federation of Agriculture and Livestock Cooperatives, FENACOA, called the Democratic Convergence's [CD] participation in the Salvadoran presidential elections a mistake because, in their view, this is not the most appropriate time for such participation. However, according to Dr Reni Roldan, the CD's vice presidential nominee, the elections are an instrument that should be used. In addition, he said it is necessary to know the CD's goals in these elections.

[Begin Roldan recording] We have said several times that the electoral process, unfortunately, still will not solve our problems. Yet, it is an instrument that should be used. In this regard, one would have to ask what objectives the CD is pursuing through its participation in the electoral process.

Our objective is to constantly pursue a negotiated peace through dialogue.

The people are completely involved in analyzing the positions of the various political parties. If the CD did not participate, it would mean the loss of one more instrument or way to communicate with our people to let Salvadorans know we must seek a negotiated solution to the war. This is the main reason we are participating in the elections. [end recording]

He explained why the CD did not attend the forum held by COMUNES [expansion unknown] to repudiate the forceful actions by the FMLN and its assassination of mayors.

According to Roldan, they were not invited because the invitation was addressed to the FMLN-FDR.

[Begin Roldan recording] I think it was probably a mistake. I do not want to say that the intention was to hurt the CD, which is a political party that, whether anyone likes it or not, is within the law.

We always say: Do not admire us for what we do but accuse us for what we do [as heard]. If anyone respects the law and the other political institutions, we do. You are our witnesses: We have never insulted, offended, or accused any political group. We make political analyses and tell the people about them. [end recording]

He said that, little by little, real conditions must be created for future elections. In addition, he said that with the CD's participation the country's system is put to a test. He noted that the CD respects the various sectors whose views are different from its own.

FMLN Proposes Government Postpone Elections
PA2401045689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0422 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrillas today committed themselves to accepting the results of El Salvador's upcoming presidential elections, scheduled for 19 March, as long as the elections are postponed until 15 September and the Army does not interfere in the elections.

The rebels unexpectedly made this announcement tonight through a communique that had not been scheduled for release until tomorrow. The communique containing the proposal was sent to Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

The rebels claim they will declare a 5-day truce—the day of the election plus the 2 days before and after the election—if they reach an agreement with the government. In addition, they will urge their rank and file to vote for the left-wing Democratic Convergence.

In its six-point proposal, the FMLN has requested that the elections be postponed, a new Central Electoral Council be formed, and a committee be created to oversee the elections.

According to the FMLN, the committee overseeing the elections should be made up of religious, humanitarian, and civic organizations that would "safeguard the elections" and should invite international observers to be present on election day.

Duarte received the FMLN proposal this morning from Salvadoran Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas. Legislative Assembly President Ricardo Alvarenga received the proposal from San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez.

The FMLN asked Rivera—who has traditionally served as mediator between the government and the guerrillas, and who favors a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict—to give the proposal to the Duarte administration. So far, the government has been absolutely silent over the issue.

The guerrilla proposal, signed by the FMLN's top five leaders, says the presidential elections scheduled for 19 March should be postponed to 15 September. Meanwhile, the guerrillas promise to respect Duarte's Christian Democratic government.

The FMLN demands that the United States "remain removed from the electoral process, without backing any of the political parties," and that Salvadorans abroad be allowed to vote.

In addition, they demand that the Army "immediately stop the murders, detention, and repression against demonstrators, strikers, and the people's movement."

The FMLN, at war against the Salvadoran Government for the last 9 years, is making this type of proposal for the first time, and it promises to respect political activities throughout El Salvador.

In addition, the guerrillas, who have repeatedly rejected the electoral process, describing it as part of the counterinsurgency plan, vow to respect public officials, who have received death threats in recent weeks.

"We would accept the legitimacy of the electoral results," and if we were to reach an agreement with the government, "we would respect the current government until new elections are held," the FMLN communique said.

This morning, after Bishop Rosa Chavez delivered the FMLN document to the Legislative Assembly, Ricardo Alvarenga, the president of the Assembly and member of the opposition rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), warned that "no proposal would be accepted if it does not respect the Constitution."

Meanwhile, Armando Calderon, a mayor and ARENA leader, came out against any negotiations with the guerrillas and said the FMLN "only wants a portion of power based on terrorist intimidation."

On Friday, Ricardo Perdomo, president of the Central Electoral Council, proposed to the guerrillas the beginning of a dialogue and negotiations to hold elections in peace.

This proposal, according to various political circles, is reportedly to be backed by the government.

FMLN Leader on Mayors' Resignations, Bush
PA1901142889 Havana International Service
in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Jan 89

["Excerpts" of interview with FMLN leader Javier Castillo by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Castillo] The resignation of mayors in several of our country's municipalities is nothing more than an expression that the FMLN is an emerging and alternate power in El Salvador. The fact that the FMLN is the real power in many areas of the country, the fact that the mayors who head the Salvadoran regime's local power are resigning without the possibility of complying with their counterinsurgency role in their villages, is a clear and definite expression of the FMLN's power. In summary, I would say that right now in El Salvador there are two powers: an emerging power, the FMLN, and a decomposing power, Duarte's Christian Democracy.

[Reporter] On 20 January, U.S. President Ronald Reagan will leave the White House and will be replaced by George Bush, also a Republican. Does the FMLN have any indication what the U.S. position will be regarding the Salvadoran problem?

[Castillo] It is clear that President Bush inherits from the Reagan administration a defeated project that has failed in El Salvador. This is not only clear to the Salvadoran people but to all the peoples in the world. We feel Mr Bush will have to take very much into account the previous administration's policy defeats and present a more realistic and objective policy, taking more into account the interests and definite needs not only of the Salvadoran people but of all Central American peoples.

We want to go on record before the new Bush administration that we will continue our unwavering struggle and will continue to develop the war throughout our country; however, we will always maintain our willingness to find roads to a political solution to our country's armed conflict.

FMLN Commander on New U.S. Administration
PA2301012589 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos
in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Interview with FMLN Commander Jorge Melendez, alias Commander Jonas, with unidentified reporter; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What does the FMLN expect from the new U.S. Administration in terms of its relations with Central American countries?

[Melendez] Well, presently there is a worldwide economic crisis. The U.S. candidate, or rather President Bush, is a pragmatic, realistic politician. We expect—or more than expect, we hope—that the United States will conduct itself in a more realistic manner in regard to the domestic affairs of our countries, particularly [words

indistinct] Nicaragua, Panama, and El Salvador. We hope that they will allow [words indistinct] to take their own courses in their economic, social, and political development. We hope that U.S. relations with us will be those of respect and cooperation with all our political projects [words indistinct] choose our own political, economic, and social models. The United States will prolong and increase the Latin American social and economic crisis if they do not allow us [self-determination], and if they do not understand that such self-determination is required. Naturally, if the U.S. chooses this path it will result in serious social conflicts and usher in an era of revolutions. If the United States does not voluntarily choose a policy of understanding, it could be disastrous for U.S. interests. If the United States, as we expect, adopts a more modern, moderate, and realistic policy, then things will naturally go better for U.S. foreign affairs.

More Mayors Resign in Usulután Department
PA2001042689 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] Three mayors in Usulután Department publicly resigned today after receiving guerrilla death threats.

The mayors who are leaving their posts are Jorge Alberto Vazquez of Tecapan, Jorge Bernardino Echia of Jiquilisco, and Eduardo Reyes of the California Municipality.

According to the mayors, the FMLN warned them that they would be executed if they did not resign their posts within 42 hours.

Despite efforts being made by San Salvador Mayor Armando Calderon Sol to repudiate the guerrillas for this type of action, the mayors continue to resign. As of noon today, there were more than 50 municipalities without mayors.

Mayors 'Forced To Resign'
PA2301033489 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL
in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] The Santa Elena mayor in Usulután was forced to resign because of FMLN rebel death threats. On the afternoon of 19 January, Jesus Gutierrez announced that he had decided to resign in order to avoid attacks on him and his family. He is the second mayor in Usulután Department who has been forced to resign in the past 12 hours. The death threats, which have been condemned by the Catholic Church, have forced dozens of mayors to resign despite the Army's promise to protect them.

The Metapan mayor in Santa Ana Department announced that he was resigning from his post because the FMLN threatened his life three times. Carmen Salazar Villalobos, member of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, received three death threats from the western FMLN Feliciano Ama Front warning him to resign or be executed along with his family. The local

Metapan chief then publicly announced his resignation, because the rebel organization gave him a 72-hour time limit within which to do so.

ARDE Threatens Reprisals

PA2301233389 San Salvador EL MUNDO
in Spanish 20 Jan 89 p 3

[Text] In response to guerrilla actions against mayors, the Revolutionary Action of Communist Extermination (ARDE) has threatened to take reprisals against the families of FMLN fighters.

In a telephone call to the media, the anticommunist group which emerged at the end of 1988 stated: "For every mayor who resigns, the family of one of the leftists who are in the mountains will be annihilated.... Listen well: eliminated."

"We have the address of each family of the communists who are in the mountains," the anonymous voice said, adding: "We need to act because the mayors do not have protection and it is time these human rights violations stop."

To date, approximately 70 of the country's 262 mayors have resigned after the guerrillas sent them letters with warnings or messages through emissaries telling them "they have to stop cooperating with the political-military plans imposed by the United States."

The Armed Forces have offered to provide military protection to the mayors to keep them from being killed by the FMLN, but resignations continue to be constantly presented. It was learned yesterday that two more mayors in Ahuachapán Department received guerrilla threats.

ARDE has also warned the guerrillas that for every car bomb that is set off anywhere in the country, an FMLN sympathizer or leftist will be killed. It issued this warning after the explosion of car bombs near the Armed Forces General Staff headquarters.

Coprefa Reports 13-20 Jan Rebel Casualties
PA2301234489 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Coprefa report]

[Text] Military sources have reported that 50 terrorists were killed and 45 were wounded during clashes with the Army from 13-20 January.

The report added that the Army confiscated 32 various rifles, 2 pistols, more than 5,000 cartridges, 112 fragmentation grenades, 111 mines, 4 radios, and a large amount of material for making bombs.

During the same period, terrorists killed 15 peasants, kidnapped 6, and carried out various attacks on civilians. Two car bombs exploded near the Treasury Police, killing two civilians and wounding four and seriously damaging at least 15 houses in the area.

In addition, the FMLN left several towns in Chalatenango Department without power by partially destroying a CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] substation.

The rebels also damaged four collective transportation buses and three private vehicles.

FMLN Claims 127 Casualties 15-17 Jan
PA2001232189 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Martí
in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 18 Jan 89

[Text] In the first 17 days of January, our guerrilla units inflicted 502 casualties on the dictatorship's troops. We recently carried out successful guerrilla maneuvers in which we inflicted 127 casualties: 63 casualties on 15 and 16 January in San Vicente and La Paz Departments, and 64 casualties [words indistinct] in successful guerrilla maneuvers in Chalatenango. In only 3 days of fighting, from Sunday, 15 January, to Tuesday, 17 January, we inflicted 127 casualties on the dictatorship's troops.

Soldiers: This is the truth that the high command, headed by Duarte and Vides Casanova, wants to conceal.

Further Claims Reported

PA2201161989 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 20 January broadcast approximately 15 minutes of battle reports.

The first of the reports refers to an incident the FMLN dealt Treasury Police troops in Jocoro, Morazan Department, which resulted in 10 policemen killed and 6 wounded. Additionally, weapons were seized and the electricity substation that feeds the eastern part of the country was totally destroyed. Reinforcements, meanwhile, were ambushed by guerrilla units, and their 3 additional casualties brought the total number of police casualties to 19. Among the weapons seized were 2 G-3 rifles, 1 military communication radio, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, 500 7.62-mm cartridges, and other war materiel.

In Chalatenango on 19 January, 4th Infantry Brigade troops entered a minefield on a hill in San Fernando and two soldiers were seriously wounded. At 1700, the station announcer continues, the FMLN staged an ambush in San Fernando, inflicting 15 more casualties on the Army, which was forced to halt its advance and request air support to evacuate its casualties.

More on Jocoro Attack

PA2101172289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos
in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] The FMLN has attacked the Treasury Police in Jocoro. This is a preliminary report from southern Morazan Department. At 0030, FMLN guerrilla forces carried out a surprise attack on Treasury policemen

guarding the energy substation in Jocoro, southern Moa-
raza Department. Within a few minutes, our forces
annihilated the enemy forces, seized control of their
positions, and destroyed the substation.

According to a preliminary report, nine policemen were
killed and one wounded. In addition, we seized two G-3
rifles, one TRT-77 military communications radio, sev-
eral knapsacks, and other military supplies.

A UH-1H helicopter flew to the site of the incident to
pick up the casualties. Our forces reported no problems
in this operation.

Ponce on Guerrillas, Panchimilama Incident
PA2101043189 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint
Chiefs of Staff, revealed today that the investigation into
the events that occurred in Panchimilama a few days ago
has concluded.

The incident involved the explosion of a mine which
killed one peasant and injured several Lutheran activists
and has been blamed on the Salvadoran Army.

[Begin recording] [Ponce] At the appropriate time, we
will provide you with several pieces of evidence, gath-
ered during the investigation [words indistinct] inside
the camp, and we will also show you the person who
unfortunately lost his life and whose corpse had been
buried without being properly examined. This man died
while handling a mine not used by the Armed Forces.
Judging by the evidence we found at the site, it was a
homemade Claymore mine. What may have happened is
that they [the victims] were examining this type of
explosive device when it detonated. This conclusion is
supported by the state of the corpse and the type of
wounds sustained by those who were injured.

[Reporter] Do you continue to maintain that the Armed
Forces' detachment was nowhere near the camp?

[Ponce] We had no military detachment units [words
indistinct]. There was no one near the Panchimilama
camp.

[Reporter] Who do you blame for this [words indistinct]?

[Ponce] I do not blame anyone. What has come out of
our investigations is that there was an explosion. The
victims were standing around the mine when it
exploded, with consequences that we all know: one dead
and five injured.

[Reporter] What about the witnesses who say an explo-
sive device was thrown at them?

[Ponce] There is clear evidence at the site of the incident
that the explosive device detonated on the ground. In
addition, the deceased man had been buried, and the
spot where the explosion took place had been covered up

with corncobs to conceal it. However, the wife of the
deceased man took us to the spot so we could see it for
ourselves, and I think she asked whether the body would
be exhumed or if it would be legally examined, since such
an examination had not taken place. [end recording]

Col Rene Emilio Ponce explained that the results of the
investigation would be made public. With regard to the
alleged stepping up of military actions by the guerrillas,
Ponce said these are propaganda activities aimed at
making people abroad believe the guerrillas have power
that in fact they do not have.

Discussing the two student leaders who were arrested in
Santa Ana on Sunday, Ponce said they have been in the
custody of the Treasury Police and that they would be
handed over to the courts today. In a communique
supposedly distributed to the media by ARDE [Revol-
utionary Anticommunist Extermination Action], the clan-
destine anticommunist organization claims responsibil-
ity for apprehending both students. Col Ponce says he
knows nothing about ARDE's claim, although he did say
it would be the Treasury Police who would turn over the
detainees for trial.

CEL Official on Cost of Electrical Sabotage
PA2001202689 San Salvador Canal Seis Television
in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Summary] Colonel Carlos Melendez, presidential
adviser to the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive
Commission, CEL, said today that although five trans-
mission lines sabotaged by the guerrillas are still dam-
aged, the supply of electricity throughout the country is
normal.

Col Melendez said the damaged lines are located
between Nejapa, San Juan Opico, San Martin, the 15
September Dam, and Cerron Grande. He added that it
has been necessary to burn fuel to continue supplying
electricity to the entire country. This new system, he
said, has a cost of 160,000 colones a week.

New Ambassador to Bolivia on Settlers Accord
PA2101182489 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL
in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Summary] La Paz—Bolivian Foreign Minister Guil-
lermo Bedregal has stated that his country and El Salva-
dor will implement an agreement that will permit the
arrival in Bolivia of 5,000 Salvadoran peasants. The
Bolivian minister made this statement after the new
Salvadoran ambassador to La Paz, Jose Horacio Tru-
jillos, presented his credentials at the government palace
in the Bolivian capital. Bedregal said that in 1972 [as
heard] Bolivia signed an agreement with El Salvador
whereby Bolivian territory was offered to settle citizens
of that Central American country.

The foreign ministers of both countries are currently
studying the agreements that will be signed in the im-
mediate future for the arrival of Salvadoran citizens.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo, who arrives in Bolivia next week, will meet with Bedregal to discuss topics of mutual interest, to sign cooperation agreements on cultural and technical exchange, and to discuss the demographic explosion in El Salvador, according to Bolivian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Gumucio.

Foreign Minister Bedregal said that the Salvadorans who will arrive in Bolivia are not refugees, but rather peasants who will engage in agriculture by virtue of an agreement to be signed soon.

The Salvadoran ambassador said that the arrival of his fellow citizens in Bolivia will be among the topics to be discussed by the two foreign ministers at a meeting in La Paz next week. The Central American diplomat said that the date of the arrival or number of Salvadorans who may settle in Bolivia have not been discussed.

Air Force Pilot Crashes on Training Mission
*PA2101200289 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Jan 89*

[Report by Alfredo Villarreal]

[Text] A 25-year old Salvadoran Air Force pilot was killed at noon today when the plane he was flying on a training mission crashed in the western part of the country. According to reports, the pilot, Francisco Osvaldo Castro Pimentel, was on training mission in a French-made Riley 255 model 1980 airplane with registration number 64. The Air Force report adds that the accident occurred at 1220 at La Empalizada farm, Candelaria de la Frontera in Santa Ana Department. The plane was totally destroyed by the impact.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] All we know is that this [words indistinct] the plane was on a training mission. We are conducting an investigation to find out what happened. We will continue the investigation.

[Villarreal] Have you ruled out the possibility that the plane was shot down?

[Unidentified speaker] We can not say that, but we do not think so; the pilot was on a training mission. We do not have accurate information at this time.

[Villarreal] When did the accident happen?

[Unidentified speaker] According to witnesses, the accident occurred at approximately 1030 in the morning.

[Villarreal] What was the pilot's name?

[Unidentified speaker] Lieutenant Castro Pimentel.

[Villarreal] Was he accompanied by anyone else?

[Unidentified speaker] No, he was alone on a training mission.

The remains of the pilot were taken to the Armed Forces mortuary.

Guatemala

Taiwanese Premier Arrives for Official Visit
*PA2001223889 Guatemala City Teleonce Television
in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Jan 89*

[Text] Taiwanese Premier Yu Kuo-hwa arrived in Guatemala City on an official visit on 15 January. He was declared an illustrious visitor in a ceremony at La Aurora Airport.

The visit by the Taiwanese official, whose retinue includes ministers of state, will last 4 days, during which he will meet with high-ranking Guatemalan Government officials.

Premier Yu was received by distinguished government members and military honors were rendered. Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo and other diplomats represented Guatemala and expressed the Guatemalan Government's willingness for better bilateral relations this year.

Representatives of the two governments said there are long-term bilateral projects aimed at strengthening relations. Guatemala City Mayor (Alvaro Bartune) was among the officials who welcomed the Taiwanese premier. (Bartune) also presented Premier Yu with the keys to Guatemala City.

Delegation Meets Belizean Prime Minister
*PA2201151989 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO
in Spanish 20 Jan 89 p 10*

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 January—Yesterday, Guatemalan and Belizean delegates held a meeting of the Subcommission for Security at the Atlantic naval base, Santo Tomas de Castilla, Izabal.

The commission was chaired by Guatemalan Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Ariel Rivera Irias. The rest of the Guatemalan delegation was composed of Roberto Bermejo, for the Guatemalan vice president; Guillermo Saenz de Tejada, for the Foreign Affairs Ministry; Navy Captain Jorge Antonio Mazariegos, for the Defense Ministry; and Deputy Edmond Mulet, for the Guatemalan Congress.

The Belizean delegation headed by Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel was composed of three people. The delegation arrived at Puerto Barrios by sea.

Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera said the purpose of the Izabal meeting was to continue searching for a reasonable and respectful agreement and then to propose a referendum to the Guatemalan people.

Regarding the referendum, Foreign Minister Cabrera said the proposal has not yet been drafted.

He added that as soon as the bilateral negotiations are over, it will be necessary to hold a round of internal negotiations with the various national sectors, including the political and business sectors.

Cabrera said this process will require the implementation of an strategy that will then be presented to the Guatemalan people.

The delegation will return to Guatemala City today to report to the Foreign Ministry on the results of the talks held with Belize at the Santo Tomas de Castilla Naval Base.

Successor to Foreign Minister Discussed

PA2101002989 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish
18 Jan 89 p 4

[Text] Following the official announcement that Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo will resign on 15 February, sources from the Christian Democratic regime have stated that Ariel Rivera Irias will replace Cabrera. Rivera currently occupies the third highest post in the Foreign Ministry.

The appointment of Rivera Irias, who before becoming a foreign ministry official served as the public finance and economy minister in General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores' administration, will surprise many people who thought the post would be given to another influential member of the ruling party.

Before this information was learned today, the following officials were thought to be the most likely candidates for the foreign minister post: John Schwank Duran, president of the law school; Labor Minister Rodolfo Maldonado Ruiz; and Urban and Rural Development Minister Rene de Leon Schlotter.

Nevertheless, it was reported today that when Cabrera Hidalgo leaves the Foreign Ministry he will be succeeded by one of his aides, Rivera Irias, who until now had been primarily in charge of dealing with problems pertaining to Belize.

The end of Cabrera Hidalgo's career as foreign minister is marked by his return to Congress, the body from which—according to him—he will enter into increasingly direct contact with all the sectors of the ruling party that support him as the presidential candidate for the 1990 elections.

Cabrera Hidalgo joins De Leon Schlotter and President Vinicio Cerezo's wife as hopefuls for the presidential nomination. His farewell to the Foreign Ministry will come before he can solve the impasse surrounding the date of the fourth summit meeting.

Defector Links Human Rights Groups to Guerrillas

PA2301003089 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO
in Spanish 20 Jan 89 p 3

[Report by Ricardo Gatica Trejo]

[Text] A major leader of the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, and founder of the Mutual Support Group, GAM, accepted amnesty in Madrid, Spain and yesterday traveled to Guatemala City where he was presented to the media.

Angel Reyes Melgar left Guatemala in 1985 after the death of GAM leaders Rosario Godoy and Hector Gomez Calito. He has now accepted amnesty because he believes in the democratization process and because he is tired of discrediting Guatemala, he said.

Yesterday, when he was presented to the media, Reyes Melgar made serious charges against the URNG, the ORPA, and the GAM.

Some 20 newsmen attended the news conference given by Melgar at the Air Force terminal protocol room in Zone 13.

Thin, tall, and wearing glasses, he looked more like a young intellectual than a guerrilla. A beard covered his face, and he wore a black beret.

At the news conference, [Reyes Melgar] gave a chronological report on his life as a guerrilla and details on the latter part of his time with the guerrillas and his decision to accept the amnesty.

The second part of the news conference was a question and answer period, but he insisted on not disclosing some details, allegedly for security reasons.

For 150 minutes, the guerrilla reported details, dates, places, and names from his clandestine life. He also talked about his interest in returning to civilian life.

In his confession to newsmen, Reyes Melgar said that "international human rights groups are closely linked to guerrilla organizations in the country."

Reyes Melgar said that as part of the URNG international front, he was responsible for disinformation campaigns against Guatemala in Mexico and Europe, for which he used information sent by the team working in Guatemala City." [no beginning quotation marks as published] He added that "in implementing these campaigns, the guerrilla organizations receive funds from human rights groups in Europe and around the world. These organizations receive a lot of money. Part of these funds go to GAM to support it."

He recalled that in order to establish the GAM, a minister councillor from a European country came to [Guatemala] from Mexico, and at the embassy of that country, in Guatemala, they established the GAM.

"However," he added, "the GAM is so discredited due to Mrs [Nineth] Garcia [GAM leader] that the URNG and the ORPA have decided to remove her and to appoint Poor People's Guerrilla Army member Amilcar Mendez."

Reyes Melgar said that "the URNG uses tricks and lies in its campaigns to discredit Guatemala." He added: "For example, I have a certificate signed by a French doctor in which the doctor states that I was tortured by the Guatemalan Army, when this actually never happened."

"I myself," Reyes Melgar states, "used that certificate in Europe and in Mexico to discredit Guatemala, when actually I have never been tortured."

Finally, Reyes Melgar held the URNG responsible "if anything happens to me or my family, because my statements are a serious blow to the clandestine groups, which have never been unmasked."

Central Bank Ends '88 With 8.5-Percent Inflation
PA2201134889 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE
in Spanish 19 Jan 89 p 2

[Summary] Jose Miguel Gaitan Alvarez, who is leaving the post of Central Bank president today, has reported that the Banco de Guatemala closed its 1988 operations with an 8.5-percent inflation rate.

"Gaitan Alvarez said that with this inflation rate, the stability of the quetzal, the country's currency, is guaranteed and thus there should be no talk of a devaluation."

Honduras

Azcona on Summit Scheduling, Human Rights Case
PA2001205789 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video
in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Report by Elan Reyes Pineda on interview with President Jose Azcona Hoyo; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reyes] Several dates have been proposed for a Central American summit. It is now Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo's turn, and he says February is the most appropriate month. So, when he began to speak, he talked about President Cerezo coming to Central America. [as heard]

[Azcona] He has not told me anything. I might call him now, because if he comes, we are going to receive him. It would be a pleasure.

[Reporter] He apparently wants to set up a new presidential summit. What is your opinion?

[Azcona] Well, I am prepared to attend a summit anytime.

[Reporter] Have you and the other presidents analyzed Costa Rica's attitude? What is the real reason for Costa Rica's attitude?

[Azcona] President Arias was very explicit in his letter. He said [words indistinct]. On the other hand, one cannot hold a meeting if one of the presidents says he wants a proposal. It would not be correct.

[Reyes] President Azcona said he will return to the United States to resolve strictly personal matters and will also attend Japanese Emperor Hirohito's funeral. Therefore, he said the summit should be held at the beginning of February.

[Azcona] I believe it should be held in early February. It would be very difficult for me to attend it later. I have a commitment in the United States on 17 February, and from there I will head for the emperor's funeral in Japan. I believe the Honduran head of state should attend this ceremony because we have very good relations with the Japanese Government and people and we should show some gesture of solidarity and friendship. If nothing extraordinary occurs, I will attend the emperor's funeral.

Therefore, I will return possibly on 27 or 28 February, and I believe the summit cannot be held any later than 10 or 12 February.

[Reporter] On a current subject—human rights. It was learned that in a few hours the Inter-American Human Rights Court will pass sentence on another pending Honduran case. Has the Foreign Ministry been notified, and what is your opinion?

[Azcona] Well, it is a case that was taken to the Inter-American Human Rights Court by a previous administration. I believe that by submitting to the Inter-American Human Rights Court without reservation, Honduras demonstrated it is very praiseworthy. Cuba will not be condemned by the Inter-American Human Rights Court because Cuba is not under its jurisdiction—nor is Nicaragua. We were condemned because Honduras submitted to its jurisdiction without reservation, and we were condemned in the case of [words indistinct]. I have not been informed [words indistinct] that it can happen at this moment. However, if it should happen, it is only a demonstration that Honduras respects human rights and submits to the jurisdiction of a court that totalitarian countries do not.

[Reporter] Mr President, will Honduras negotiate to pay 12 million lempiras as an indemnity to the Velasquez family? What has the international organization suggested?

[Azcona] There is nothing to that yet, but the organization can make suggestions. I believe this matter requires reason. It is now in the hands of the commission I appointed that is headed by the government and justice minister.

[Reyes] On 23 January, several delegates of the Inter-American Human Rights Court will come to Honduras to negotiate with the government the amount it should pay as indemnity to the family of Manfredo Velasquez. Although it has been said that the amount is 12 million lempiras, the amount originally requested by the inter-American agency, Honduras is not prepared to negotiate on the basis of this amount.

Court Decision Announced

PA2201011589 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish
1830 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, with headquarters in Costa Rica, today held the Honduran Government responsible for the disappearance of and for the violation of the right to life of Honduran professor Saul Godinez Cruz, who has been missing since 1982. The court said the state has the obligation of paying a just compensation to the relatives of the victim. The amount of the compensation will be established by the court implementing the ruling.

In the case of Costa Ricans Francisco Fairen Gardi and Yolanda de Corrales, who disappeared in Honduras in December 1981 while traveling to Mexico, the court urged the [Honduran] Government to provide the court with certain requested information, which has been denied. The information concerns the location of a grave, because relatives of Francisco Fairen believe his body is buried there. The Honduran authorities have been asked to exhume the body for identification purposes.

Salvadoran Guerrillas Hinder Border Survey

PA1901020889 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video
in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Jan 89

[Report by Elan Reyes]

[Text] According to Pedro Pineda Madrid, chief of the Honduran Border Demarcation Commission, there is no way to mark off over 100 km of the border area between Honduras and El Salvador because surveying crews fear the Salvadoran guerrillas in the area. Pineda said because of this fear, the commission he heads has only been able to survey two of the seven undemarcated areas along the border.

Three types of landmarks have been used to demarcate the border areas between Honduras and El Salvador that are not in dispute: the linear, corner, and terminus landmarks, which mark the extension of the Honduran territory.

The surveying work in the border area has been halted because the Salvadoran guerrillas occupy almost the entire border strip between the two nations.

Pedro Pineda Madrid told us about his workers' fear of the guerrillas and provided details on the unfinished work:

[Begin recording] [Pineda] Lately we have been discussing specific problems such as the [words indistinct] in the city of [name indistinct], and we have a monthly meeting too. In addition to the interstate commissions' monthly meeting, there is the field work that we conduct. The field work is continuous. We have a field brigade and El Salvador has its brigade, too. That is the extent of the progress we have made in the surveying process.

I must tell you that we should have done a lot more, but the guerrilla presence is a real and evident difficulty. The guerrillas endanger the lives and safety of the people who work there. That is the case with the undisputed areas between Nahuaterique and Sesalapa de la Virtud and between Nahuaterique and the disputed area of Dolores. These areas cover over 100 square km, and although they have already been surveyed and marked, access to these areas is very difficult. You can get there, but you may not get back alive.

[Reyes] How many of the seven sections have not yet been demarcated?

[Pineda] Of the seven areas that have not been demarcated, we have completed one and have finished 90 percent of another area. In the other remaining sections, we face the guerrilla problem. The surveying process would go more quickly if the two commissions did not have to deal with the serious danger of working in areas occupied by guerrillas, as is the case in the areas of Arambala and Perquin. To go there means to be killed or kidnapped, regardless of one's citizenship.

[Reyes] Which Honduran departments have not been demarcated because of the guerrilla problem?

[Pineda] Part of one of the sections, the one between Dolores and Nahuaterique, is located between La Paz and Intibuca Departments. Another area is located between Intibuca and Lempira, up to and including the Jalapa-La Virtud area. Still another is located between Lempira and Ocotepeque Departments.

[Reyes] Could this guerrilla problem be solved through an agreement between Honduran authorities and the rebels so the work can be completed?

[Pineda] No, that would not work. Guerrillas interfere with all activities, even surveying, so the solution is not as simple as reaching an agreement with them. All of this has very serious legal implications. Should the Honduran Government reach an agreement with the guerrillas, it would be like reaching an agreement with another state. This would not be right, either from the Honduran or Salvadoran viewpoints. Consequently, no understanding with the rebels is possible. We could perhaps go ahead and try to do the work anyway, but I have not even tried that because I do not think it makes much sense. No, this is not the solution.

[Reyes] Can you tell us the size of the demarcated portion of the border on which there is no disagreement?

[Pineda] About 300 km. If my memory serves me right, 263 km, on which there is no controversy, have already been demarcated.

[Reyes] Is the rest of the border to be settled at the The Hague International Court of Justice?

[Pineda] That is right, but I must remind you—I believe I have already mentioned this—that the total area in dispute with El Salvador is 419.6 sq km. [end recording]

According to Honduran authorities, the solution to this border problem with El Salvador would be an agreement between Jose Napoleon Duarte's government and the guerrillas so the authorities of the two nations can enter this area. No solution to this conflict, however, has been found so far.

Armed Forces Announce Personnel Changes

PA2301164189 [Editorial Report] San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish in its 20 January edition on page 20 carries a 500-word report on an Armed Forces reshuffle of personnel.

The report announces the following changes:

105th Infantry Brigade Commander Colonel Lazaro Avila replaces Colonel Leonel Aquiles Riera as Honduran Public Security Forces general commander.

Col Aquiles Riera replaces Colonel Ronnie Martinez at the Armed Forces Inspector General's Office.

Colonel Carlos Aguirre replaces Colonel Edgardo Mejia as Honduran Air Force commander.

The 1st Infantry Brigade commander, Colonel Alonso Cantarero, replaces Colonel Leonel Gutierrez as Honduran Navy commander.

Armed Forces Inspector General Colonel Alvaro Romero replaces Colonel Claudio Lainez Coello as Francisco Morazan Military School director.

Col Lainez Coello transfers to the Armed Forces Inspector General's Office.

Colonel Luis Alonso Discua replaces Colonel Roberto Nunez as Military Intelligence G-2 commander.

Col Nunez replaces Colonel Angel Augusto Madariaga as Armed Forces Civil Affairs Office G-5 chief.

Col Madariaga becomes military attache to the Honduran Embassy in Mexico.

Lieutenant Colonel Jose Francisco Bustillo is appointed Officers School director.

Lieutenant Colonel Jose Martinez is appointed Northern Military Academy director.

Lieutenant Colonel Santiago Hernandez is appointed 10th Battalion commander, stationed in Marcala.

Lieutenant Colonel Eugenio Romero is appointed 4th Artillery Battalion commander.

Fourteen colonels and approximately 25 other officers are retiring.

Nicaragua

EPS Claims 2 Airspace Violations From Honduras
PA2001234389 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO
in Spanish 19 Jan 89 p 4

[Report by H. Vargas]

[Text] Ocotol, Nicaragua—An EPS regional bulletin states that two spy planes coming from Honduras once again violated our national territory at 1800 last Monday, and at 0600 on Tuesday in the Teotecacinte area.

According to the brief bulletin, these violations are new acts of provocation by the United States.

In the face of these incursions, peasant militias are taking appropriate preparations to defend our territory.

Claims Harassment by Army
PA2301225589 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
2253 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry Public and Foreign Relations Directorate this afternoon reported new provocations by the Honduran Army.

According to the Defense Ministry's bulletin, Honduran soldiers harassed the EPS forward observation post at La Ceiba, 6 km west of Somotillo, Chinandega Department, at 0300 on 21 January.

In addition, Honduran soldiers harassed the EPS forward observation post at Murupuchi, 4 km north from Teotecacinte, Nueva Segovia Department, with M-16 rifles and .50-caliber machinegun fire from 1845 to 1945 on 21 January. The Honduran soldiers also fired eight RPG-7 rockets and two 81-mm shells at the EPS observation post.

Defense Ministry Denies Shooting Refugees
PA2301141889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1332 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Managua, 23 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Sandinist troops who patrol sectors close to the Cos'a Rican border clashed on 20 January with a "group of armed contras" that was returning to Costa Rican territory, it was reported to ACAN-EFE by a Nicaraguan Defense Ministry spokesman.

The source added that the results of this "clash" were still being investigated, and denied that the Nicaraguan Army had "machinegunned" Nicaraguan civilians who were fleeing toward Costa Rica.

Reports previously issued by the Costa Rican Public Security Ministry asserted that approximately 50 Nicaraguans who were crossing the border by swimming or by riding in small boats had been machinegunned from Las Mercedes Hill in Nicaragua, where it is claimed the Sandinists have a control post.

A Defense Ministry spokesman in Managua insisted they were not unarmed civilians "but armed contras who had infiltrated Nicaragua from Costa Rican territory," adding that there are no reports on the "armed clash."

Ortega Greet Heng Samrin on National Day
*BK2301163889 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 Jan 89*

[Text] On the 10th anniversary of the Cambodian people's 7 January historic great victory, Comrade Daniel Ortega, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of State. The message says in essence:

Nicaragua and Cambodia are cooperating in the struggle against imperialism with a noble revolutionary spirit. The solidarity between our peoples is bound by an unshakable goodwill for freedom and a will to be the sole builder of our rights. For Nicaragua, the Cambodian people's struggle is of great significance. It is in this sense that our party and people support a solution to the Cambodian problem through negotiations. We support the proposal put forward by the Indochinese countries to achieve peace, and we also unconditionally support the decision of the heroic Cambodian people to oppose the return to power of the Pol Pot regime. Nicaragua and Cambodia are currently moving forward toward freedom, peace, and well-being.

Ortega Reaffirms 1990 Presidential Elections
*PA2301212989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
2006 GMT 23 Jan 89*

[Report by Luis Cabrera]

[Text] The president of the Republic has just sent a letter to representatives of political parties in which, among other things, he discusses the November 1990 elections, reaffirms that they will take place, and, because of the cost of elections, proposes that municipal and Atlantic Coast autonomous region elections be held at the same time.

President Daniel Ortega's letter reads as follows: Dear friend: In keeping with Article 150, point 14, and Article 170 of the Constitution, and Article 6 of the Electoral Law published in LA GACETA, issue 197 of 18 October

1988, I address you to request that your party present six candidates who I must send to the National Assembly to choose principal and alternate magistrates who will become members of the Supreme Electoral Council.

President Ortega's letter adds:

I remind you that the Electoral Law specifies a 15-day deadline for the presentation of a list of candidates.

Another part of the letter states:

I also wish to note that I am sending a letter to the other political parties represented at the National Assembly.

President Ortega states:

I take advantage of this opportunity to reaffirm that, in keeping with the Republic's laws, there will be presidential, vice presidential, and National Assembly elections in November 1990.

Due to the costs involved, I feel elections for municipal and Atlantic Coast autonomous region authorities should be held on the same date. A date must be set for the Central American parliament elections, which requires the approval of all the Central American countries.

Your Brother, Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

Paper Accused of Urging Mass Exodus to U.S.
*PA2201032789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
19 Jan 89 p 3*

[Editorial: "What Does the Embassy Think?"]

[Text] What does the U.S. Embassy—especially its consular officials—think about LA PRENSA's open advocacy of a Nicaraguan exodus to the United States?

For the first time in 10 years, LA PRENSA has gone against official U.S. Government policy. Its goal is evidently to promote a mass exodus of Nicaraguans to help continue selling abroad the image of a revolution abandoned by its people.

In this case, however, the propaganda tool could turn out to be a double-edged sword, and not exactly for LA PRENSA but for the U.S. authorities themselves. Ask U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service officials who, burdened by the extremely serious social problems immigration is causing in Miami, have pleaded with federal authorities over the past few days to put an end to the flow of Nicaraguans entering the United States.

After all is said and done, this is a problem that can only be solved by LA PRENSA's directors and their contacts at the U.S. Embassy, to whom they must surely account.

The primary issue at hand is to unmask the right-wing newspaper directors' total lack of scruples. Detached as they have always been from the people's grief and

suffering and in their quest to destroy the revolution's image, they do not care if the people sell all their possessions and cross the Rio Grande or arrive in Miami as pitiful beggars.

There is one thing I am certain of, however, and that is that even though they claim that Nicaraguans "feel free" only in Miami, the last ones to leave their wealth and property in Nicaragua to become "wetbacks" will be LA PRENSA's owners.

LA PRENSA Accused of Defending Crime
PA2101030989 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
19 Jan 89 p 3

[Editorial: "They Continue To Play With Fire"]

[Text] Preliminary details obtained in the investigation into Tuesday's vandalism at the Red Cross warehouse in Las Delicias del Volga confirm our statement yesterday that LA PRENSA's distortions are a form of disguising an open defense of crime.

As everyone already knows, it is not true that the warehouse contained food, or that the perpetrators of the crime were "the hungry Nicaraguan people," as the rightist paper claimed on Tuesday.

Similarly, it has been demonstrated that the statements published by that paper that day—presented as declarations by so-called "hungry Nicaraguans"—were invented in LA PRENSA's editorial room. Still pending is an investigation into the strange "coincidence" that placed a LA PRENSA photographer at the scene of the crime at shortly after 0700.

However, despite the facts, in yesterday's edition LA PRENSA insisted on distorting the report. Moreover, by justifying the vandalism, its pages continue to promote similar actions.

LA PRENSA insists on playing with fire, and it just may get burned, because the first people to suffer the consequences of such actions would be none other than private property owners—businessmen, merchants, etc—who the people have identified as the main hoarders of the nation's wealth.

Would LA PRENSA perhaps defend the peasants of Leon if they were to decide tomorrow to take over lands belonging to Nicolas Bolanos [not further identified], or the CDS [Sandinist defense committees] if they were to decide to convert establishments belonging to the Chamber of Commerce members into schools or CDI's [child development centers]?

Does this campaign by LA PRENSA mean that it has stopped being the newspaper of the rich and has finally placed itself at the service of the people?

If this is so, we celebrate with that paper; if not, let it not complain later.

Editorial Claims 'Success' of Opposition March
PA2101030189 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
16 Jan 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Two Successes, but Only One Option"]

[Text] A march yesterday by the united opposition in memory of our martyr publisher Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and labor leader Luis Medrano Flores was successful on two counts.

First, it was a success for the unity of the dissident parties, groups, and organizations who took to the streets moved by civic enthusiasm and a common determination to demand democracy, freedom, justice, and peace.

With funds from the people and no state resources, thousands of citizens overcame fear and took to the streets to publicly repudiate the current regime and courageously show support for an opposition stand. This fact alone suggests that the conditions are present to maintain civic unity by capitalizing on the current unstoppable rise in popular dissatisfaction toward the Sandinist regime.

Second, we must note the prudent attitude displayed by the police who allowed the march to take place peacefully. This confirms that the incidents in Nandaime took place only because of the provocative attitude of security forces that showed up with bludgeons, gas masks, and riot control dogs. The police kept their distance from the march Sunday, and we must credit the government for this with no reservation.

For the first time in 10 years of dictatorship, the people took to the streets, and this must not be seen just as a "circumstantial happening." The FSLN knows that to stay in power it must hold free elections, because increased military pressure will only bring about a greater democratization force that will cause even more damage than before.

We are reaching a point where FSLN schemes are yielding to Esquipulas II; the Group of Eight headed today by Carlos Andres Perez; perestroika; a new Mexican president; and a new U.S. Administration that appears to be less ideological, but more rational and pragmatic.

To the opposition, the difference in Sandinist attitude toward the Nandaime and Managua demonstrations is not only a triumph for the civic resistance that has struggled together with the people of Nicaragua. More importantly, it is a challenge created by a new strategy of not blocking the people's right to demonstrate in public, which the FSLN made official yesterday.

Increasing involvement in outdoor actions, consolidating unity and alliances, and organizing people not only at national but also departmental and municipal levels are some of the tasks that the opposition will implement within this new phase of its civic struggle that began yesterday.

We must keep in mind that the government's prudent attitude during Sunday's demonstration could turn out to be permanent or the miracle of opposition unity is not merely "circumstantial." We know the overall crisis afflicting the country demands and makes these things possible.

A civilized, orderly, and complementary relationship between the opposition and government in exercising their rights is essential in any democratic process, and at this time it is the only option available to lift Nicaragua from the economic, political, and social slump into which it has fallen.

Deputies Request More Information on Budget
PA2201155889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Unattributed report on interview with Carlos Cuadra of the Marxist-Leninist Peoples Action Movement (MAP-ML), by unidentified reporter in Managua; date not given]

[Text] Political parties represented in the assembly have stated that a lack of information about the Republic's general budget has prevented them from submitting their criteria on the new budget presented by the chief executive to the assembly.

Sergio Torres Obregario of the Conservative Party of Nicaragua said the National Assembly has given the commission tasked with reviewing the draft budget only 10 days to issue an opinion. However, he added, we are unable to do so because figures regarding the multiple entries on the previous budget are not available to us. MAP-ML Deputy Carlos Cuadra gave a similar opinion:

[Begin Cuadra recording] The possibility of approving or rejecting specific entries on the budget necessarily implies the need for complementary information. For example, the budget states the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services, TELCOR, would transfer capital to the central government—that is, the government would use part of TELCOR's revenues to cover expenditures. This does not hold true for the Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute, INAA, and the People's Forestry Corporation, CORFOP—why? What is the explanation?

To find out, we need to know the budgets of those autonomous organizations and corporations. We need to know TELCOR's budget, because that transfer policy leads us to conclude TELCOR has excess revenues, when it actually could turn out to be that Nicaragua is sacrificing

the development of information, that growth of the information field is being limited—in this case, TELCOR's growth. That could be one of the conclusions.

We do not have enough information to issue a judgment. We can only point out that without that information, it is adventuresome to issue a judgment based solely on empirical knowledge. All Nicaraguans know TELCOR is a disaster. [end recording]

Cuadra demanded that the Finance Ministry and the Planning and Budget Secretariat furnish firsthand information, allowing the parties to issue judgments on discussing the budget at the plenary meeting at a later date.

[Begin recording] [Cuadra] This commission should be aimed at drafting a new budget at the beginning of the 2d trimester. It would be difficult for us to redirect, criticize, or praise the budget, because it is already implemented; that budget's criteria is different than the criteria of the budget being discussed here at this time.

[Reporter] So you believe it would be drafted in the 2d trimester?

[Cuadra] I truly think it will be drafted at that time; this is a reality. At that time, we would be discussing a budget covering the 2d trimester of 1989 to the 1st trimester of 1990. This would be a rather improvised way of tackling the conflict we are facing. [end recording]

Natan Sevilla, president of the National Assembly's Economic, Finance, and Budget Commission, said he will establish 26 January as the deadline for political parties represented at the Assembly to submit opinions on the Republic's 1989 budget. According to Daniel Ortega, the total budget stands at more than 285 billion cordobas. He has announced a 20-percent cut. Certain deputies have said that this year's budget is already being implemented. They added that since it was drafted in November 1988, it is already distorted because of inflation increases in our economy. They said it is only logical to approve a new budget at the beginning of the 2d trimester of 1989.

Should the Assembly fail to approve the Republic's general budget, the Budget Law specifies it would be provisionally implemented during the 1st trimester when it should be finally approved and implemented.

Panama

Commentary on New U.S. Policy Toward Panama
PA2301215689 Panama City Domestic Service
in Spanish 1645 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Station commentary by Danilo Caballero, director general of the National Information System]

[Text] The first official statements by the new U.S. Administration demonstrate, at least in principle, a positive change in the White House attitude toward

Panama—or at least a considerable difference from that of the the outgoing Reagan administration. Shortly before leaving his post, Reagan made it clear that he had done everything he could to create and maintain conditions preventing the complete turnover of the Panama Canal to our country in 1999.

One of these conditions was the destabilization of the Panamanian Government through a wide range of pressures exerted against our country in recent months. Our country has withstood the most dramatic crisis in its history. If anyone asks Mr Reagan what was the most frustrating aspect of his years as U.S. President, he would have to answer: Not being able to oust the current Panamanian Government and thereby guaranteeing conditions for extending the United States' presence in the Panama Canal beyond the deadline stated in the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

We must bear in mind that, in his two terms as U.S. President, Reagan could not fulfill the promise he made throughout the campaign that first won him the presidency. Shortly before his departure, the former U.S. President referred to Panama in clear terms. He was simply confirming what the Panamanian Government has asserted on several occasions: The Reagan administration made the question of reviewing the Panama Canal treaties into a national issue that did not turn out as predicted, thanks to the nationalist attitude of the Panamanian Government and its Defense Forces.

The Reagan administration tried to implement the lamentable imperialist plan outlined in the Santa Fe documents by concentrating all of Washington's political and economic power on the destruction of Panama. Reagan made this a personal vendetta, as shown many times during his two terms. In fact, he was not alone in that doomed enterprise; he found equally fanatical and reactionary men who schemed and conspired to satisfy and materialize their President's dreams—men like George Shultz, Elliott Abrams, and Arthur Davis.

Shortly before leaving his post, Mr Abrams deplored the fact that the Reagan administration had not done more to harm our country. This confirms that both he and Ronald Reagan have no qualms about compromising U.S. President George Bush's Panama policy. It is an underhanded and immoral way of trying to make the new U.S. Government complete the task which they could not carry out.

The Bush administration has a right to set and carry out its own policies, despite its political links with the previous U.S. Administration. Because we are talking about a new administration, it is impossible to specifically predict what we can expect from the Bush administration. Therefore, it is uncomfortable to see members of the outgoing administration trying to tell the new U.S. President where and how he must act.

President George Bush's recent statements concerning the obligatory nature of the Panama Canal treaties and the highly conciliatory tone of the statements issued by new U.S. Secretary of State James Baker imply at least a change of style in the United States' policy toward our country. Their statements indicate that at least they want to change the White House's image and the style of its previous tenants; this, in itself, is quite encouraging.

We say encouraging because the new U.S. Government recognizes the need to honor the Panama Canal treaties. This means that the new U.S. Administration must necessarily reject the plots prepared by Mr Reagan and his henchmen against our country—unless the whole thing ends in new degrees of aggression. It is traditional for every new government, regardless of the country, to issue some kind of statement outlining its foreign policy. Therefore, it was quite auspicious to hear the two persons directly in charge of Washington's foreign policy using a different language and style than that used by Mr Reagan when they recently referred to our nation.

Anyway, Panama is not expecting a gift, as some people might interpret the change in Washington's attitude toward our country. Panama is minding its own business, waging a tiresome and constant struggle to forge its own destiny. The main obstacle in this struggle has been the negative and selfish attitude of a series of U.S. Administrations. Based on its own actions, the Reagan administration is at the top of this list.

Mr Bush's administration now has the opportunity and means to stop and remedy the United States' increasing loss of prestige in Latin America and the Third World.

Reaction to Noriega's Torrijos Foundation Speech

Called 'Government Platform'

PA2301213889 Panama City LA REPUBLICA
DOMINICAL in Spanish 22 Jan 89 p 4-A

[Column by Mario Augusto Rodriguez: "Presidential Platform"]

[Excerpts] When I read the complete text of the speech delivered by citizen Manuel Antonio Noriega at the Omar Torrijos Foundation's annual dinner, I confirmed the impression I received when I saw and heard him on television: It was the presentation—solidly reasoned and explained in detail—of a government platform, which in turn lays the foundations for the next government program. In other words, he proposed a complete and precise working plan for the administration that will govern the country during the 5-year period that will begin this year, and he outlined the main postulates and final objectives of the administration that will lead the country from 1994 until 31 December 1999. [passage omitted]

I must mention that citizen Noriega has not been officially nominated as a presidential candidate by any party, alliance, or coalition. However, his name has been

persistently mentioned, both inside and outside the country, as the possible candidate of the recently created National Liberation Coalition (COLINA). Noriega has not made any direct or indirect statement to promote his candidacy, nor has he said whether he would accept that political leadership if offered to him. It seems clear that should he accept his nomination, he would be the best candidate for the parties supporting the current regime. However, as long as this is not formalized, we must view his speech as the opinion of a citizen who, fully exercising his rights and duties, expresses his views regarding what the government program should be for a 5-year period that will decisively project itself into the next period, which will end after the Torrijos-Carter treaties have been totally implemented.

Although seven parties supporting a national liberation plan that is clearly based on the Torrijist revolutionary process have formalized their alliance, neither COLINA nor anyone mentioned as a possible candidate for that alliance has made a detailed, precise, and reasoned presentation of a government platform. The doctrine and ideological principles, although pluralistic, were defined several 5-year periods ago. However, citizen Noriega has been the first one to outline not only the different structural parts of a government platform, but also the methods, systems, and even the tactics and strategies to be followed in conducting domestic socio-economic actions and international relations. The lengthy dissertation made at the Marriott Hotel on 17 January practically covers the entire scope of national life, from the agriculture, and livestock, and industrial field to administrative structures, including health, education, and economics. However, the entire program gravitates around what constitutes the vital nucleus of our national existence: the Canal enterprise and our relations with the United States, now defined in the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Logically, the program Noriega presented and analyzed is substantially nationalistic. It coincides with COLINA's stance, which is based on a national, anticolonialistic consolidation. Therefore, the thesis calls for the utilization of our natural resources, the main one being our geographic position that made possible the construction of the Transisthmian Railroad, the oil pipeline, and the interoceanic canal. However, the thesis also stresses the relationship between those resources and the capabilities of human resources regarding both rights and responsibilities. It is clear that the consolidation of the Panamanian nation's independence and sovereign dignity depends largely on the dedication and the continuous, constructive, and productive efforts in which all Panamanians should participate to fulfill the needs and aspirations of the community and to efficiently comply with our responsibilities with the rest of the world, particularly concerning the operation and maintenance of the water bridge uniting the two largest oceans in the world. [passage omitted]

Noriega Called 'Statesman'

PA2301174289 [Editorial Report] Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish on 20 January 1989 reports on page 4-A in its "Names and Events" column on Panama Defense Forces (FDP) Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega and says: "The speech he delivered during a dinner in his honor hosted by the Omar Torrijos Foundation at the Marriott Hotel has been considered by public opinion as a government platform. He spoke on the administration, the economy, the banking center, the IMF, foreign relations, freedom of expression, the opposition's policy, and the role of Panamanian women in the present circumstances. One of his friends said: 'We have heard the statesman, not the military man. The people will get the message.'" LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA published the last two sentences in boldface.

Meanwhile, Panama City CRITICA in Spanish on 20 January 1989 carries a cartoon by Chic Martinez in the "Political Arena" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua on page 4 that represents Gen Noriega as a boxer with "nationalism" and "total sovereignty" written on his gloves. The cartoon shows Noriega punching a very badly beaten-up President Reagan, who is knocked right out of his stars-and-stripes boxing trunks and who has "aggression" and "colonialism" written on his gloves. A second fighter, President George Bush, is approaching the "White House" corner. The cartoon also shows the Panamanian people dancing around the ring and a ship entering the Panama Canal. A caption at the head of the cartoon reads: "One leaves and the other one begins, but the struggle lasts until the final goal is reached, under the leadership of our political-military leader, 'Tony' Noriega."

Women's Group Protests at U.S. Embassy

PA2201215289 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Approximately 100 women shouting nationalist slogans and carrying signs staged a protest in front of the U.S. Embassy on Balboa Avenue last night to warn the new U.S. Government that Panamanians will always stand tall and will never kneel down or allow a single step backwards in the struggle for independence and complete sovereignty.

The protest was staged by the Women's Single Front Against Aggression, FUMCA, and in their protest they said no to the economic, political, and social sanctions imposed by U.S. imperialism.

PALA Leader on COLINA Election Plans

PA2201000889 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Report on interview with Labor Party (PALA) Secretary General Ramon Siero Murgas at the 5 May Square in Panama City on 20 January]

[Text] [Begin Siero recording] We are happy the opposition has already reached a consensus. This [opposition announcement of ticket for May 1989 elections] is no

surprise to us since we have been expecting it for a long time. All the progovernment political parties have already committed themselves to COLINA [National Liberation Coalition], the government's coalition. At noon today, we will register COLINA at the Electoral Court. Next week, we will talk about our candidates. [end recording]

This is what Siero had to say about the possibility of a change in U.S. policy toward Panama:

[Begin Siero recording] We have nothing to do with the measures taken by the U.S. Administration. We have our own strategy. The political parties began discussing our candidates for corregimiento representatives and legislators over 1 week ago. This week we are planning to discuss the presidential candidates. This is our own strategy. We do not need the United States to tell us what to do in this regard. [end recording]

PAPO Leadership Endorses Opposition Candidate
PA2201005189 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] People's Action Party [PAPO] President Carlos Ivan Zuniga and the PAPO leadership met today with several leaders of the Authentic Panamenist Party headed by Jorge Pacifico Adames and presidential candidate Guillermo Endara. They came to voice their total support for the opposition's single slate in the 7 May elections.

[Begin Zuniga recording] Since there is a single opposition slate, we came to convey PAPO's support for your candidacy. We are fully convinced we will win and we will usher in democracy. We feel that, in politics, platforms constitute the heart of a struggle. Where there is heart, there is love. The people will follow this slate if it has a good popular and democratizing platform, which is what the country needs.

Therefore, our party sincerely and objectively joins in. No PAPO member will be a candidate for any elective post. We will strive for your slate's victory. We are not

going to be part of any partisan political opportunism. We are going to strive for your victory so you, Mr Endara, will be the next president of the Republic. [end recording]

PPA's Endara on Canal Treaty Renegotiation
PA2401041789 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish
23 Jan 89 p 11

[Unattributed article: "Endara Willing To Renegotiate the Torrijos-Carter Treaties"]

[Text] Presidential candidate Guillermo Endara says he is willing to revise the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which call for the Panama Canal to be turned over to Panama on 31 December 1999.

"I would only discuss revising those treaties for Panama's benefit, not its detriment," said Endara, who was nominated on Friday by the country's opposition.

Endara also described as "daring" the statements made by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who disavowed the treaties.

Reagan said the interoceanic waterway should not revert to Panama if the present government remains in power.

Endara's response to this statement was: "It is daring to so openly violate the 1977 treaties."

"If anyone has a right to complain about those treaties it is us, the Panamanians who lived in a dictatorship void of freedom of expression when they were approved," the opposition candidate said.

"It is we who could very well complain to them (the Americans) and tell them: You imposed those treaties on us at a time when we had no democratic liberties," Endara said.

Endara, meanwhile, denied reports that members of his Authentic Panamenist faction are receiving political guidelines from the U.S. Embassy in Panama.

"We would never accept such a thing, and if such guidance were offered we would reject it and respond (even violently) to such insinuations," Endara said.

Argentina

Further on Attack on La Tablada Garrison

Guard Unit 'Virtually Destroyed'

PY2301172289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1704 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (NA)—The guard unit of the 3d Infantry Regiment in La Tablada has been virtually destroyed by the bombardment from two tanks under the command of Army troops, and it is therefore presumed that the few civilians who remain in the building must leave at any minute.

Other Army troops have the situation under control in the neighborhood of the Guard Unit, and if the civilians try to leave they will be immediately arrested.

Intense Gunfire Reported

PY2301174589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1715 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (TELAM)—The exchange of fire between Army personnel and the Buenos Aires police forces on one side, and the intruders entrenched in two of the three buildings of La Tablada 3d Infantry Regiment on the other, began to increase as of 1430.

The firing of automatic weapons, heavy caliber weapons, mortars and 20-mm cannons, including one inside the regiment, can be heard.

The police forces are concentrated mainly on the corners of Crovara and Otamendi and Godoy Cruz streets.

When some of the large group of reporters who are covering the incident tried to withdraw from Crovara Avenue through Godoy Cruz Street to get away from the regiment, the police warned that there was a shootout on the corner of Somellera and Otamendi Streets, but gave no details.

Police and Army personnel, some of the positioned outside the regiment camp, are shouting for ambulances to be sent in.

Reportedly, an explosion caused some damage at a Coca Cola bottling plant located a few blocks from the regiment. Although the cause of this explosion has not yet been determined, it is possible that it may have been caused by a mortar going off target.

Dramatic scenes can be witnessed near the regiment where relatives are trying to find out about draftees, whose whereabouts are not known at this time.

Armed Civilians Leave Guardpost

PY2301172989 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1719 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (NA)—The armed civilians who took over the Guard Unit of the 3d Infantry Regiment in La Tablada have just left the building in the midst of an intense gun battle with Army troops.

The civilians left by a side door and have scattered. They were dispersed by the intense cross fire of the Army troops.

Dead Soldiers Identified

PY2301178989 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1737 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (NA)—Reliable sources have reported that three of the four militarymen who died during the fighting at the 3d Infantry Regiment in La Tablada have been identified as Officers Pablo Perrota, Carlos Acuna, and Eduardo Ardiles, while the fourth is presumably a non-commissioned officer called Guile.

'Large' Fire in Camp Reported

PY2301170889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1750 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (NA)—A large fire has broken out in the Guard Unit of the 3d Infantry Regiment in La Tablada, which is being battered by cannon fire in an attempt to dislodge the command group that is answering with rifle fire.

The flames are approximately 2 meters high and there is a column of dense smoke, which can be seen from outside the regiment's installations.

The intense cannon fire has seriously damaged the building.

Battle Moves to Civilian Area

PY2301180589 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1750 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (NA)—The bloody armed confrontations that started within the installations of the 3d Infantry Regiment in La Tablada have now moved their epicenter to the corner of Crovara Avenue and the Cintura Highway, which is an area of civilian population.

It is not yet known whether the armed civilians have sought refuge in the high-rise buildings that are located there, or whether the buildings have been evacuated.

'Tense Calm' Noted

P12301182189 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
1804 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (DYN)—As of 1545 [1745 GMT], following an infernal gun battle in which various types of light and heavy weapons were used, a tense calm seems to prevail within the installations of La Tablada regiment, where only isolated shots can now be heard.

Army commandos, who are in charge of the repressive operation, stated at that time that they were "sweeping the area." No shots can be heard from the sector where the aggressors are located and it is presumed that they have been decimated.

The subversive group seems to have now concentrated in the troop barracks and in the area of the arsenal.

Police sources have said that an officer was withdrawn in a helicopter at approximately 1530. The officer was seriously wounded and was taken to the Central Military Hospital, where other victims had already arrived by air. The helicopters from La Tablada land at the Argentine Polo Fields, from where the victims are taken to hospital in ambulances.

Police Regaining Control

PY2301190789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1822 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (NA)—Reports covering the area have reported that the Buenos Aires Provincial Police have regained control of the area around the La Tablada 3d Infantry Regiment and that the shooting has become sporadic.

After that unit's security post was bombarded with 90-mm cannons, the civilians who had seized that building tried to escape; confrontations continue in the civilian area, near Crovara Avenue and Cintura Highway.

It was also learned that there are snipers in the town of Evita, in the neighborhood of Las Toscas, and in some houses near the regiment.

Some 60 Buenos Aires police entered the regiment's main gate and recovered some 100 meters of the area where combat had taken place a few minutes earlier.

SIDE Chief Cited

PY2301195489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1912 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (TELAM)—Facundo Suarez, head of SIDE said this afternoon at Government House that "the situation at the 3d Infantry Regiment in La Tablada is militarily under control, although some centers of resistance remain." He added that it is too soon to speak of the political leaning of the aggressors.

The SIDE chief said that "the Army has the forces to resolve the situation immediately, but is trying to avoid unnecessary bloodshed."

Suarez spoke with the media after informing President Raul Alfonsin of the activities in the military unit.

Regarding the political leaning of the aggressors, he said it is too early to talk about it. He added that "they cannot be seriously and responsibly identified until we have a well-defined (evaluation) of the facts."

Finally, he said that he did not have concrete information as to the number of victims of the attack.

Report on Groups Involved

PY2301212789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1934 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (NA)—A high-ranking Army source today reported that Army and police personnel in the past few hours have begun a "thorough cleanup operation" in and around the 3d Infantry Regiment in La Tablada, to detect "elements abandoned by the armed group" that has retreated.

Meanwhile, military sources have reported that the civilian group is made up of members of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), and that some documents compromising the so-called "Everyone for the Fatherland Movement" have been found. They added that the wounded Army troops include a lieutenant colonel and a noncommissioned officer 1st class, who are undergoing surgery to save their lives.

The source added that two of the attackers killed in the clash have pending court-issued arrest warrants, although this information has not been confirmed by judicial sources.

The source declined to give the exact number of Army and police casualties, but stated that all of them have been taken to hospitals in Moron, La Matanza, Campo de Mayo, and Churrucua, or to the Central Military Hospital.

"The operation has not ended," the source stated at almost 1700, and explained that "cleanup operations" are being carried out at this moment in the 3d Regiment and in nearby apartment houses to which the subversives reportedly fled.

The military source also reported that one of the attackers was "severely beaten" by civilians who have gathered in the nearby area as he was being arrested by the regular forces." [no opening quotation mark as received]

Army Opens Cannon Fire

PY2301202089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1949
GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (TELAM)—At 1730, Army troops opened intense fire with 105-mm cannons and machineguns on the area where those who this morning sought to seize the 3d Infantry Regiment of La Tablada have entrenched themselves.

The firing, which began with isolated mortar shots 15 minutes ago, was intensified when the loyal troops began to "cross fire" on the area.

Meanwhile, Buenos Aires Provincial Police were trying to approach a nearby house from where shots were being fired.

Before the intense firing began, the police evacuated the residents of the Crovara Avenue area.

Cordoba Airborne Unit Sent

PY2301205889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2020 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Cordoba, 23 Jan (TELAM)—A communique signed by Brigade General Martin Felix Bonnet, commander of the III Army Corps headquartered in Cordoba, states that the 4th Airborne Infantry Brigade has been transferred to La Taolada area as a reserve unit.

The military communique states: "The command of the III Army Corps, Northern Army, informs the public that because of today's attack at dawn against the 3d Mechanized Infantry Regiment in La Tablada by unidentified aggressors (presumably a gang of subversive criminals), and in compliance with orders issued by the Army Staff, the 4th Airborne Infantry Brigade, subordinate to this command, has been airlifted to near the center of operations as a reserve unit."

Presidential Spokesman Comments

PY2301234689 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora
Color Network in Spanish 2135 GMT 23 Jan 89

[News conference by Presidential Spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez with unidentified journalists this afternoon at Government House—recorded]

[Text] [Lopez] I would like to inform you that the President has just met with the defense minister and with Army Chief of Staff General Gassino, who has already left Government House. Gen Gassino has given the President an initial report on the operations, which are still under way, to put down the criminal attack on the 3rd Infantry Regiment.

I repeat that the operations are not over yet. There is already a regrettable number of victims from the forces of democracy and the Army, and also from the Buenos Aires Provincial Police, who were cordoning off the regiment premises.

There are at least four dead from the Army: two soldiers, an officer—who I understand is second in command at the 3rd Infantry Regiment—and a noncommissioned officer.

Twelve men have been wounded, and some of them are in serious condition. I have as yet no details to report to you.

Once the operations against this gang of criminals is over, the Army Staff will probably give you the military details, while the government—that is, the executive branch—will provide a corresponding political evaluation. You will be informed at the appropriate moment, and I will then be at your disposal.

The Army chief of staff has reported that what he thinks is the final attack against the criminal gang is taking place right now.

[Question indistinct]

[Lopez] They are criminals, without a doubt. We have reasons to believe that they are linked to some of the gangs that in the recent past promoted terrorism against the will of the people. It seems that today's attack is totally against the will of the Argentine people, who without doubt have decided to live in democracy with tolerance, with freedom, and within the framework of the institutions established by our national Constitution.

Before referring further to this subject, to which I cannot add anything more, and regarding the task to which the Army is now dedicated, the results of which we will report later, after the reestablishment of order in that military unit—before speaking about that, I prefer to express an acknowledgement from the President of the Republic as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, who, I believe, clearly interprets the feelings of all the Argentine people at this moment. He acknowledges the courage, honor, and performance of all the Army officers, many of whom have given their lives for democracy and for peace, and of the men of the security forces, especially the members of the Buenos Aires Police. The president expresses his solidarity with the families of the victims and his sorrow for them. This is the price democracy is paying to consolidate itself.

[Reporter] Are the operations restricted to the regiment's area?

[Lopez] Yes, absolutely. They are limited to the regiment's area. Some criminals are still left in some of the regiment's quarters, so activities are concentrating there right now, in an operation considered to be the final one.

[Reporter] About President Bush's message.

[Lopez] Yes, the U.S. President has phoned President Alfonsin to express his solidarity in these circumstances and his solidarity with Argentine democracy.

[Reporter] Will the operations end today?

[Lopez] Yes, the Army chief of staff believes so.

[Reporter] Do you know how many rebels there are?

[Lopez] No, I do not yet know the number of criminals who attacked the regiment.

[Reporter] Deputy Jaroslavsky, president of the Radical Civic Union party bloc, said that these criminals were possibly linked with the People's Revolutionary Army. Do you know anything about that?

[Lopez] No, I prefer and I insist that we not discuss possibilities—regardless of my respect for Deputy Jaroslavsky, who may have information that I do not have. Right now the Armed Forces—the Army in particular—the security forces, and the government are concentrating on reestablishing order in the Army unit that was attacked. Soon after this is over, we will dedicate our efforts to determining the identity of those madmen who have carried out this attack.

I reiterate that it seems, by the manner in which they acted against the will of the people, that they are connected with those who promoted terrorism some years ago.

Renewed Fighting Reported

PY2301232289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2311 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (TELAM)—As of 2345 [time as received], there was again heavy firing inside the 3d Regiment in La Tablada.

It is believed that the troops are launching a final attack against the rebels, who have sought refuge in some of the buildings inside the unit.

A lot of smoke and flames can be seen.

Large Explosion Noted

PY2401000589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2324 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (TELAM)—An intense shootout is taking place in the 3d Regiment of La Tablada. After 2100, some Army groups moved into the military unit in a "final attack" to crush the criminals who are occupying the place.

As two ambulances were entering the unit to assist wounded military personnel, the armed cache of company "B" blew up in a building that was already on fire and whose roof had totally collapsed.

The explosion caused a shock wave and a mushroom of fire 100 meters high.

Small Group Still Resisting

PY2401003689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2355 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (NA)—A small armed group tonight continues to resist tenaciously inside a building of the 3d Regiment in La Tablada. This building is usually identified as "Company B," according to Army troops deployed there.

Company B is a two-story building, some 70 meters long. This is the building for conscripts. The noncommissioned officers' mess hall is located next to this building.

According to reports from that place, shooting continues and strict security measures have been adopted to prevent the civilian population from being injured by gunfire.

At sunset police were strictly controlling people walking in the area, because they believe some of the irregulars may try to escape in the darkness.

An eyewitness has clearly explained the situation by stating that "this is hell," referring to the environment around the 3d Regiment in La Tablada, because the shootout continues not only inside but around the unit as well.

Communique From La Tablada

PY2401012089 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
0012 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (DYN)—A person with a clear female voice who seemed to be rather excited today called DYN "to disseminate a communique" attributed to the armed group that today took over the La Tablada Garrison.

The caller did not identify herself nor did she give any indication as to the political leaning of the group of attackers, but her remarks were consistent with the actions taking place at that time, despite the hastiness with which she was speaking and the way she suddenly hung up on the reporter who asked her about her ideological leaning, a question that seemed to bother her.

The call was received at the DYN office at approximately 1445, when Army commando groups were striking hard at the armed group that had taken over the Tablada Regiment. The female voice said: "Urgent, I have a communique from the 3d Regiment."

The following dialogue then took place between the alleged spokeswoman of the subversive group and a DYN reporter:

Reporter: What kind of communique, from the Army?

Caller: No, from those of us who are here at La Tablada. Please take note of the communique because they are massacring us.

Reporter: Who are massacring you?

Caller: The Army, the police...but please go ahead and take note of the communique....

Reporter: Well, go ahead and I will take note....

Caller: In the face of an attack by a group of blackened faces on the Tablada Garrison, a group of Argentine patriots fighting for democracy entered the garrison to crush the rebels. This group is now surrounded by the police and the Army, and it is fighting for democracy and social justice. The people should surround the garrison to prevent the murder of those who are fighting for the liberation of the fatherland. Signed: Democratic Front to Resist Coups [Frente Democratico en Resistencia Contra el Golpe]. That is all. Could you please disseminate it?

Reporter: You are talking about an attack by blackened faces, but weren't you the ones who took over the military unit?

Caller: Yes, but we did it to abort a coup that was being concocted here, to defend democracy, and now they are massacring us.... Please do something.... We are going to call our attorneys.... This is terrible.

Reporter: Are you inside the La Tablada Garrison? What positions have you taken and what is the overall situation now?

Caller: No, I am calling you from an adjacent building. My friends are inside the garrison. I do not know how many of them died, but the Army and the police are launching an all-out attack on them.

Reporter: Do you have an acronym? Are you an armed group? An irregular army? What are your objectives? What is your ideology?

Caller: We are democratic people. What we wanted to do is to avert a plot the blackened faces were going to carry out next weekend (?against democracy).

Reporter: But, tell me, are you leftists?

The last question went unanswered because the caller had hung up.

'Complete Silence'

PY2401010289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0028 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (TELAM)—After an intense shootout through the past hour, the shooting has now ceased in the 3d Infantry Regiment of La Tablada.

There is complete silence in the area, while the nearby buildings that were set on fire continue to smoke.

Looking from outside, it is impossible to determine what is going on inside the military unit.

Alfonsin at Government House
PY2401021489 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Report from Government House by Marta Lopez]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Alfonsin will spend the night at Government House, and tomorrow at 0730 he will go to La Tablada, the headquarters of the 3d Infantry Regiment, where these incidents are occurring. Arrangements have been made for President Alfonsin to go to La Tablada tomorrow at 0730.

Defense Ministry Communique
PY2401022689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0125 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (NA)—At 2300 today, the Defense Ministry released the following communique:

"Concerning the events that have occurred since early this morning at the 3d Mechanized Infantry Regiment, the Defense Ministry hereby reports that the events have developed in the following manner:

"1. At approximately 0630, some 30 to 40 irregular and unidentified men burst into the regiment's facilities in a beverage truck and in 8 private vehicles.

"2. The regiment's guard and personnel reacted, giving the alarm and defending the regiment.

"3. Army Chief of Staff General Francisco Gassino directed the operations, and he alerted all the forces and ordered the state of readiness of the forces that will be used to recover the facilities.

"4. The Buenos Aires Provincial Police resolutely cordoned off the area to prevent the criminals from escaping.

"5. As the area was being cordoned off, forces of the 10th Infantry Brigade, of the Patricios Infantry Regiment, of the General Directorate of Military Institutes, and of Commando Unit 601 arrived in the area aboard Army helicopters.

"6. At approximately 1050, the forces of the 3d Mechanized Infantry Regiment managed to recover an equipment storage facility and the regiment's guardpost.

"7. As a consequence of the above, 10th Infantry Brigade Commander Colonel Jorge Halperin at 1120 began attacking on several fronts.

"8. At 1630, the fight continued against the main force of the enemy, who had gathered at the noncommissioned officers' mess hall. It was known that the subversive group had heavy and large-caliber weapons, like grenade throwers, antitank ammunition, automatic large-caliber arms, and FAL rifles.

"9. The main body of the terrorist group has been dissolved as a result of the attack. The terrorists, however, are trying to regroup in isolated groups to hinder the action of our own forces.

"10. Dragnet operations started at 2000 to detect and defeat those isolated groups, inside and outside the installations. These dragnet operations are still underway.

"11. As a result of the confrontations, the Argentine Army has suffered so far the following casualties:

"Chiefs: 1 dead and 2 wounded. Officers: 2 wounded. Noncommissioned officers: 1 dead and 14 wounded. Soldiers: 2 dead and 6 wounded.

"12. The Defense Ministry stresses the courage and professionalism displayed by the security forces and Army personnel in defense of the national institutions.

"13. The Defense Ministry likewise expresses its regret for the pain that the bloodshed of Argentine men represents, and it expresses its solidarity with the grief of families and comrades of the victims."

Hostage Holders Still Resist

PY2401031789 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
0230 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (DYN)—At midnight, Army troops were surrounding the mess hall of noncommissioned officers at the 3d Infantry Regiment, where the last of the terrorists who today attacked the regiment were still resisting by holding some people hostage.

Army Chief of Staff General Francisco Gassino has given precise instructions to safeguard the hostages' lives. Thus, "cleanup" operations with heavy artillery were suspended and are now restricted to light automatic weapons.

Nearly all military personnel, many of them members of commando groups, blackened their faces to avoid becoming easy targets for the attackers. Tracer bullets and flares were searching the sky in the area.

Thick files proving the ultra-left leaning of the dead terrorists, including a proclamation and items related to the Revolutionary Workers Party and the People's Revolutionary Army, were being sent to the Army General Staff to be studied.

The documents, as well as foreign arms and ammunition confiscated from the terrorists, may be shown tomorrow to the press.

Also seized from the dead terrorists were documents linked to the Everyone for the Fatherland Movement, which recently reported on an alleged military uprising against President Raul Alfonsin.

Arrangements were being made early this morning at El Libertador Building for a funeral chapel for the military personnel who died during the attack.

Rebels Hold Mess Hall

PY2401033789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0240 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jan (NA)—Past midnight tonight, a tense calm prevailed at the 3d Infantry Regiment at La Tablada. Today, La Tablada was the site of harsh clashes between the Army and an armed commando group that attacked the regiment. It is believed that there may be more clashes early in the morning. [passage indistinct]

A heavily armed group of between 20 and 50 men positioned itself on the first floor of the noncommissioned officers' mess hall. During the entire afternoon this group resisted heavy cannon fire, and it is still holding the building at midnight. No shots are being fired now, however.

The rebel group is apparently supported by another rebel group from outside the regiment which had taken over a nearby factory.

The latter constantly harassed the Army and police troops, which carried out a search operation.

The heavy fire ceased at about 0000 GMT, but sporadic fire was heard inside the regiment.

A hectare of burning grass inside the regiment was the only light in the La Tablada area.

Despite the apparent calm, some Buenos Aires Province Police, who also took part in the attack against the rebels and who lost some of their colleagues, tried to find each other in the night.

Officers of the 10th Infantry Brigade stationed in La Plata, who this morning entered La Tablada to recover it, agreed that the rebels "are going to remain" entrenched until tomorrow morning. They added that it is expected that "they will receive reinforcements."

The Army was trying to launch an incendiary attack by using Molotov cocktails and artillery fire, and by setting the woods on fire for a "final attack" on the noncommissioned officers' mess hall.

Army 'Waiting for Sunrise'

PY2401105489 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
1004 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (DYN)—Snipers located some 50 to 100 meters from the main entrance of the 3d Infantry Regiment are continuing to fire at Buenos Aires Province Police who are surrounding the regiment premises.

One of the snipers is on the terrace of a building located on the corner of Cintura Highway and Godoy Cruz Street.

A heavy shootout occurred between 0445 and 0530, but it then was suspended because the police had practically run out of ammunition.

The officers urged the journalists who were nearby to call for an immediate shipment of ammunition for 9-mm weapons and 7.62-caliber FAL rifles.

In the meantime, the group of extremists who yesterday took over the regiment during the most bloody and lengthy action of this type ever registered in Argentina still remain inside the regiment.

Army forces are apparently waiting for sunrise to resume their attack against the extremists.

It was confirmed that no military officers are being held as hostages by the extremists, but that there are four noncommissioned officers inside the noncommissioned officers' mess hall, a building which was practically destroyed yesterday by tanks and by a fire which almost completely destroyed the roof.

The rebels are allegedly inside the Regiment Company A barracks after having been dislodged last night from the Company B barracks, which were also destroyed.

From 0100 until 0445 only one shot was heard, probably fired by an officer who thought he had spotted an extremist trying to flee.

The area where the regiment is located remained in darkness as of 0600 this morning. It is still not certain whether the blackout was ordered by military or civilian authorities or whether it is part of the government plan to save electricity.

Dragnet Operation Around Unit

PY2401103389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1009 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (TELAM)—This morning at 0700 [0900 GMT] in the area where the Guard Unit—which was destroyed by mortar fire yesterday—of the 3d Infantry Regiment used to stand, there was a meeting between Army officers and security forces. Apparently they were given instructions for a dragnet operation that will start with the single-storied houses and blocks of flats that are located in the neighborhood.

The deployment of troops and men started just after 0730. The dragnet is to seek the snipers who had been operating early this morning.

Approximately at the same time a TELAM reporter toured some of the streets that lead into Crovara Avenue where he saw the impacts of bullets in walls, roofs, doors, windows, and even some water tanks of several houses, which is the aftermath of the gun battles that took place during the night.

Meanwhile, it is difficult to observe what is going on inside the regiment installations. Journalists have observed that most of last night's fires have been put out and only some small strings of smoke can be seen.

As of 0745 there are no indications that an operation has been mounted against the small group of invaders who still remain inside the regiment. It has been stated that this group is holding four hostages.

Attackers' Weapons Identified

PY2401111289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
1046 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (DYN)—At approximately 0830 [1130 GMT] shots were heard inside the installations of the 3d Infantry Regiment, which could mean the beginning of the operation to put an end to the take over of that unit by an extremist group.

Apparently there was no answering fire.

It has been said that the terrorists who are still inside the regiment are heavily armed with weapons that are superior to those that are being used by the Army and police.

The weapons in the hands of the terrorists are believed to be from Belgium, the PRC, the Soviet Union, and Israel, according to military sources.

Some weapons were recovered yesterday by the Army from the bodies of the terrorists.

It was stated this morning that it is possible that the weapons and literature will be shown to the media during the day by government or military authorities.

14 La Tablada Attackers Surrender

PY2401112689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1114 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (TELAM)—At least 14 subversives who were occupying the installations of the 3d Infantry Regiment in La Tablada surrendered to the Army at 0908 [1108 GMT].

The 14 individuals had been ordered to come out with their hands up.

The majority of them are bare-chested and are wearing shorts. One of them waved a white T-shirt as a sign of surrender.

There is a wounded woman among the 14, and she is being aided by 2 others.

The surrender took place in front of the virtually destroyed building of the barracks.

Army forces are holding the subversives at gunpoint.

Others Urged To Surrender

PY2401112889 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1119 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (TELAM)—At 0914 [1114 GMT] the Army Forces again shouted an ultimatum to those subversives who have not surrendered at La Tablada Regiment.

Those who have still not surrendered have been told with megaphones that their lives are guaranteed.

Prior to this ultimatum, 14 subversives had surrendered with their hands up. They were made to form a column in order to transfer them to the interior of the unit.

*** Air Force Successfully Launches Missile**

33480089 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish
23 Dec 88 p 6

[Text] The Argentine Air Force has successfully launched a surface-to-surface rocket with a range of 100 km and a destructive capability of 30,000 square meters, according to military sources.

The rocket was launched from the "El Chamental" air base in the Argentine province of La Rioja, some 1,200 km northwest of Buenos Aires; Brigadier General Ernesto Crespo was present. The missile—still unnamed—is 7 meters long, has a payload weighing half a ton, and reaches an altitude of 40 km before its descent.

This time the payload was replaced by a cluster smoking bomb, which exploded when the rocket made impact in a predetermined desert zone between La Rioja and Cordoba. The rocket trajectory was tracked by radar from "El Chamental" and Brigadier Crespo greeted those present when the missile [arma] lifted successfully from its launching platform.

The test was considered "vital" to the development of the Argentine missile production plans which include the "Condor II."

Brazil

*** Orbita To Export 'Smart' Missiles to Iraq**

33420024c Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese
20 Dec 88 p 24

[Text] Sao Paulo—Orbita, S.A., a company controlled by Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.], is preparing for the first exportation of "intelligent" missiles to Iraq, revealed a company director who returned recently from that country. The missile selected by the Iraqis is the Piranha, an air-to-air missile, for Iraq's combat planes. A

decision should be announced by the beginning of the year, with export to follow immediately; that is, coinciding with the initiation of manufacture of this weapon.

The Piranha was developed at the CTA [Aerospace Technology Center] in Sao Jose dos Campos, more than 5 years ago. The technology was transferred to D.F. Vasconcellos, whose controlling share was later bought by an international company. Hence the company was obliged to abandon the project, which was passed on to Orbita.

The missile has already been tested successfully and should also be mounted on the subsonic aircraft which Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] is producing jointly with Italy: the AMX.

A Brazilian mission led by entrepreneur Jose Luiz Whitaker Ribeiro, president of Engesa, went to Iraq to negotiate the sale of the Piranha. Ribeiro would only say that the matter had been discussed; he preferred not to say anything about the negotiations, for fear of displeasing the purchasing country, since arms were involved.

*** FRG-Made Sub Delivery Set for May**

33420024b Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 27 Dec 88 p 8

[Article by Roberto Godoy]

[Text] The Tupy, the first of a series of FRG attack submarines of the IKL-209/1400 type purchased by the Brazilian Navy, has already passed submersion, firing, and navigation tests and should be delivered to the country in May 1989. The submarine cost \$150 billion (about Cz\$105 billion) and its primary functions will be coastal patrol, squadron defense, and attack.

According to Navy Minister Admiral Henrique Saboia, although the Tupy is a conventional vessel, with diesel-electric propulsion, it will enable Brazil to "acquire the technology to design and build ships of this type without any dependence on foreign countries." The second submarine in the family, the Tamoyo, will be assembled in the shipyard of the Ilha das Cobras, as will the remaining two: the Timbira and the Tapajos. The Brazilian fleet will then have eight submarines, since there are already four in operation, purchased from England.

The principal result of incorporating this class of ships in the Brazilian fleet is already clear: At the Navy Materiel Directorate in Rio, a team of specialists is working on the final stages of Project Nac-1, the first entirely Brazilian submarine, also non-nuclear, using the knowledge acquired through the transfer of the "know-how" from the IKL-209/1400; the Nac-1 should go into production within 3 years.

Operation Baltic, in which the Brazilian Navy signed a cooperation accord with the FRG, was initiated 10 years ago. The contract, which came to about \$500 million, was fully financed, with a 12-year amortization period after a 5-year grace period.

In Latin America, six countries operate 16 IKL-209 submarines: Argentina (2), Peru (6), Chile (2), Colombia (2), Ecuador (2), and Venezuela (2), but only Brazil and Argentina have the industrial support structure to take on the entire process of construction of the submarines.

*** Government Indecision Imperils Space Leadership**
33420020e Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese
5 Dec 88 p 10

[Article by Eustaquio de Freitas]

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—Government indecision on a national policy regarding the study and exploration of outer space could cause the country scientific, political, and economic harm. Without defining that policy, Brazil persists in rejecting the role of leadership in Latin America's space sector. That analysis has emerged in recent weeks among specialists of the National Institute of Space Research (INPE) based on the establishment of regional organizations such as Panamsat—Latin America Space Agency—aimed at uniting countries wanting to combine their efforts in exploring space resources and satellites to be used for telecommunications, meteorology, remote sensing and navigation.

In a number of international conferences held in the past 10 years, Brazilian scientists have received many references suggesting the possibility of government action aimed at establishing a Latin America Space Agency. However, the Brazilians have always refused to engage in negotiations in this regard inasmuch as the government has not offered any guidelines or even defined its own domestic space policy.

Last week there was increased discussion in government circles inasmuch as a number of Brazilian scientists have been invited to participate in an international conference to be held in Costa Rica in September and convened precisely for the purpose of considering the organization of a Latin America Space Agency. Since the scientists do not know the Brazilian position, they relayed the matter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where the subject is being discussed with representatives of the Brazilian Commission for Space Activities (COBAE).

For example, the Brasilsat satellite has only 20 percent of its capacity utilized and will soon end its useful life without ever having had its idle services offered to any neighboring country. The Brazilian attitude has already given rise to the establishment of two consortia: the Panamsat which will take care of Venezuela, Colombia (which has the Brasilsat over its territory), Central America, and the Caribbean and the Andean satellite which

will take care of the Cordillera countries and might unite countries which were possibly enemies, such as Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia.

Discussions are currently being held by the Institute for Space Research, of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Aerospace Technology Center, of the Ministry of Aeronautics, and the Brazilian Commission for Space Activities associated with the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA) on the status of the Brazilian space agency. In a recent visit to INPE, Admiral Valmer Lisieux, chairman of COBAE and minister in chief of the EMFA stressed that "the space policy is the prerogative of COBAE and the other organizations are merely called upon to carry out the established programs."

Despite that guideline, in their speeches and conferences certain INPE directors referred to the organization as the Brazilian Civil Space Agency. For example, this week Demetrio Bastos Neto, one of the INPE directors, referred to the institute as an "organization on its way to becoming the Brazilian Space Agency."

Launching of First Satellite Dependent on Sarney

Sao Jose dos Campos—President Jose Sarney has only a few weeks to decide on the placing in orbit of the first Brazilian satellite as a part of the program commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic in November 1989. That is one of the conclusions of the Brazilian and foreign specialists who initiated at the Institute for Space Research (INPE) a series of meetings to evaluate the project and the tests to which the satellite was subjected.

According to researcher Aydano Carleial, head of the Brazilian Overall Space Mission, the definite model of the satellite, weighing 103 kg and destined to orbit at a height of 750 km, will be assembled in March 1989 at the Satellite Manufacturing and Testing Laboratory.

"Inasmuch as the national rocket launcher, VLS, being developed by the Ministry of Aeronautics, will be ready only by the end of 1991, we need almost a year to engineer and adapt our satellite to a foreign launcher," said the scientist.

INPE has scheduled the construction phases of the satellite for completion at the beginning of October 1989, in accordance with planning in the Ministry of Science and Technology, so that it can be launched on 15 November, the day of the first presidential election in 25 years. That date is not definite, since the government must first decide whether or not to purchase the foreign rocket launcher. As launching alternatives, INPE offered the Armed Forces General Staff the Chinese Long March-1 rocket and the American Scout.

*** Military Ministers Concerned Over Budget Cuts**
33420021b Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese
8 Dec 88 p 2

[Text] Brasilia—The military are quite concerned over the effects that the budget cuts for 1989 might have on their programs. Yesterday, Navy Minister Henrique Saboia announced that several of his ministry's programs will have to be revised, because of the over 20 percent cut in the funds contained in the budget proposal sent by the government to the National Congress Budget Commission. The report was released during the ceremony marking Sailors Day.

Included among the Navy programs that will have to be postponed is that for the re-equipping of the fleet, calling for the construction of two more corvettes next year. However, the Navy's purchase of four new frigates and a ship-dock for Marine transport will not be affected by the cuts. There is already a budget appropriation under the heading of the Naval Fund for the purchase of those vessels. The four frigates and the ship-dock are being leased from the U.S. Navy at a cost of \$7 million each (nearly 4.38 billion cruzados at the official exchange rate).

In the Air Force, according to Minister Octavio Moreira Lima, the main program that might be affected by the budget cuts is that for the expansion of the Integrated Aviation Defense and Air Traffic Control Center. Nor will there be funds for investment in the expansion of airport terminals, many of which are saturated, such as those in Rio de Janeiro, Recife, Belem, Fortaleza, and Brasilia.

In the Army, the government's budget proposal reduced the funds for 1989 from 336 billion cruzados to 286 billion. According to information from advisors, Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves became quite annoyed upon learning that the cuts in his ministry's budget will exceed the 11 percent initially planned.

During the operation of the Congressional Finance Commission, all the military ministries maintained a strong lobby, through their congressional advisors, to prevent the cuts from being enlarged. The Ministry of Aeronautics even financed a trip for congressmen to Alcantara, in Maranhao, where the satellite launch base is being constructed.

*** Santos, Brizola Favored in Poll**
33420024a Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 20 Dec 88 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—Businessman Silvio Santos and former Governor Leonel Brizola would compete in the second round if presidential elections were held now. A survey conducted by the Minas Gerais firm Vox Populi shows that, in two situations, the two candidates would take the lead and Deputy Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the PT candidate, would come in third.

In the first case, the respondents spontaneously named their preferences for president. Brizola received 10.3 percent, Silvio Santos received 7.4 percent and Lula received 6.8 percent. They were followed by Fernando Collor (5 percent), Orestes Quercia (2.3 percent), Mario Covas (2.1 percent), Ulysses Guimaraes, Paulo Maluf and Antonio Ermirio (1.8 percent). Some 46 names were mentioned, but only these received more than 1 percent. Another 32.1 percent of the respondents said they did not know whom they would vote for and 15.3 percent would not vote for anyone.

In the second case, 11 names were presented to the respondents and the result was as follows: Silvio Santos (24.6 percent), Brizola (19 percent), Lula (13 percent), Collor (7.7 percent), Quercia (5.6 percent), Ermirio (5.1 percent), Covas (4.1 percent), Ulysses (3.9 percent), Maluf (3.6 percent), Janio (2.4 percent), and Aureliano Chaves (1.7 percent).

Maluf had the highest rejection rate (26.3 percent), followed by Ulysses (17.5 percent) and Janio (15 percent). Least rejected were Collor (1.2 percent), Covas (1.5 percent), and Ermirio (2.1 percent). Brizola's rejection rate was 6 percent and for Silvio Santos it was 3.4 percent, close to that of Lula (3.5 percent).

Regions

Vox Populi interviewed 4,800 voters in the Northeast, the Southeast and the South, "the largest field study conducted since the municipal elections," according to survey coordinator Marcos Antonio Coimbra, sociologist and professor at the Federal University of Minas Gerais. According to Coimbra, the interviews were conducted in 88 cities, including 13 capitals, and 28 percent of them were conducted in rural areas. The capitals were Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Recife, Fortaleza, Porto Alegre, Vitoria, Florianopolis, Curitiba, Natal, Maceio, Sao Luiz, and Salvador. "The universe represented 89.88 percent of the Brazilian electorate," Coimbra said.

The survey respondents also defined the profile which the candidate should have:

- 23.9 percent preferred a "new politician, not compromised by party associations";
- 19.1 percent wanted "a socialist politician with strong ties to labor";
- 14.1 percent wanted "a traditional politician with a distinguished past";
- 6.9 percent wanted "a conservative politician, with a strong personality";
- 6.8 percent wanted "a military officer, with great leadership in the Armed Forces";
- 6.4 percent wanted "a rich and successful businessman."

A surprising statistic was that 3.7 percent of the respondents could not say in what year the presidential election would be held.

*** Multinationals Unconcerned by Leftist Wins**
33420018c Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO
in Portuguese 4 Dec 88 p 6-B

[Article by Armando Ourique]

[Text] The leftist victories in the municipal elections last month were a signal to centrist politicians and to the business community that the people do not like what they are seeing and that the nation's policies should be directed toward income distribution and economic growth.

This assessment was voiced to FOLHA by Gunnar Vikberg, executive vice president of Xerox of Brazil. It was also expressed in quite similar terms by Christopher Lund and Gilberto Prado, presidents, respectively, of the Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro American Chambers of Commerce for Brazil.

The three spokesmen said the election results were positive and important for Brazil's path toward a "consolidated, mature and modern democracy," as Lund put it. He added that "the success of democracy is the key to Brazil's future." The three men also agreed that the multinationals "need not be concerned" (quoting Vikberg) about the results of the last elections.

According to Vikberg, it would be a great mistake to read into these elections that the Brazilian electorate had opted for extremism. He added that an analysis of the results shows that this was predominately a "protest vote" against the current state of affairs. The Workers Party [PT] was the big winner in the elections, he said, but the results also revealed a high incidence of blank ballots and quite expressive or reasonable support for small parties, such as the Democratic Worker's Party, the Liberal Front Party and the Social Democratic Party.

Renewal

Lund said that "new faces and ideas" would emerge in Brazilian political life, which would contribute decisively to a successful move toward modern democracy. In these elections, he added, "there was a housecleaning process" that would stimulate "the parties themselves to seek ideologies and free themselves from personalities." According to Gilberto Prado, the results revealed "a sovereign electorate, free to choose the candidates that it finds suitable at a particular moment." In the next elections, he added, the success of each candidate will be proportionate to his identification with the aspirations of the electorate. "Those candidates who rely solely on the weight of the party label could take the team off the playing field," he said.

Vikberg said the election revealed what he believes was a "justified" protest vote against an adverse situation. "No one except a speculator could be happy about the inflation or the potholes in the streets," he said. The three interviewees said the election results generally reflected the performance of the parties in the public

administration. In this regard, the three noted the defeat of the PT in the Fortaleza mayoral election, which they said reflected the alleged poor administration of Mayor Maria Luiza Fontenelle.

Vikberg said the multinationals have no reason to fear extremism, because the Brazilian people historically are not inclined to extremism and because "the world is moving politically to the center and Brazil will also move in this direction." He said, however, that if the centrist parties are to have any chance in the 1989 presidential election, they must unite behind a charismatic and intelligent candidate and must also arrive at rational solutions to the problems of income distribution, economic growth and the foreign debt. If Brazil attacks these problems, he said, it will have enormous possibilities for development, because "there is no other country in the world with a private sector as well capitalized and with the financial conditions for investment."

Income Distribution

According to Lund, the centrist politicians need to seize the banner of income distribution from the politicians of the Left. He said that, in the next few years, "Brazil's primary goal will be to improve the living standard of all Brazilians, particularly the less advantaged." The accomplishment of these goals, he said, "is good for the multinationals," for various reasons.

In the first place, it will result in political stability and a healthy economic climate, which are basic reference points for the multinationals' investment decisions. In the second place, any project to improve the living standard of the people will require investment, technology and a flow of international financing, with the multinationals participating. Lund said he was not concerned about the rhetoric against the multinationals by the leftist politicians, because, if Brazil is to have a more efficient economy, it is imperative to "reduce the gap between rhetoric and reality."

*** Parties Seek Alliances for Succession Race**
33420021a Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese
11 Dec 88 p 16

[Text] Brasilia—All the political parties are seeking majority or minority partners to divide the fuel for the presidential race. Not excluded from this search are the most leftist parties, such as PT, which is trying to join other leftist forces. PDT [Democratic Workers Party], too, is either taking a ride, or giving one to anyone thumbing on the electoral avenue, either to the center or the right.

Used to alliances on the top level to make transitions of regime or mere everyday transitions in the legislative branch possible, the parties, after the regional test, are preparing for combinations that will make candidacies of the left, right, and center for President Jose Sarney's succession viable: a rather imprecise differentiation in

the tossed salad of Brazilian politics. As was observed in the municipal contest, the Left, Right, and Center could be members of the same group, depending only on the geographical location.

For example, PDS [Social Democratic Party] is rightist in the Northeast, and "social democratic" in Santa Catarina, where Esperidiao Amin was elected mayor of Florianopolis. At the other extreme, without PDS' physical features, but with many contradictions typical of a political miscellany, PT has managed to glean an electorate as diverse as quattrocenists from Sao Paulo gardens, the disinherited in its camp, and part of a youthful bourgeoisie with European proclivities.

This alliance imperative, which gained reinforcement with the term "transition" (part of the parties' present and future discourse), seems to be taking hold in PT, until recently opposed to the idea, and is becoming marked in PDT, which never rejected it. PT, at its fifth 1987 meeting, made a clearcut option for alliances as a more objective means of coming to power. PDT is seeking combinations at the whim of the regional winds, although attempting to retain the image of a "dark socialism" on the national level, starting with Brasilia and Leonel Brizola.

Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, already a campaigning candidate, has given notice: "We have a clear, well-defined position for alliances, but only with the vanguard sectors of the society."

PT's main partners along this line are small groups. They represent little in votes, but serve to maintain the socialist tinge, with the group's major ideological evidence, its great trump card in the municipal elections. PT's most constant companions are the two Communist Parties, PC [Communist Party] and PCB [Communist Party of Brazil], which castigated the PT members every time they left the trade union cradle for electoral politics.

But not everything is going peacefully. The alliances made in Sao Paulo in the contest for city hall, for example, emerged after much debate. The problem was CUT, PT's mainstay, which resisted becoming allied with parties supporting the other trade union confederation, CGT [Union Headquarters].

What had been difficult in Sao Paulo became impossible in Rio de Janeiro, for the same reasons; and Jorge Bittar's PT fought alone. As in Sao Paulo, where a last minute "white coalition" was formed with PDT headed by Ailton Soares, in Rio informal backing was procured from Saturnino Braga's PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]. In Porto Alegre, the alliance was confined to PCB. In Manaus, the party gave an indication of a certain amount of immaturity. Despite the PT members' identification with Mayor-elect Arthur Virgilio, of PSB, no alliance was made. The PT top echelon's contact on the federal level was with Deputy Beth Azize, who was defeated at the PSB convention. Without the alliance, PT did not elect a single council member.

Up until now, PDT has been a potential partner of PT. According to PT members, it has a "progressive" character only in Rio de Janeiro and Rio Grande do Sul, and has gained influence in Maranhao with the election of Jackson Lago in Sao Luis. PT is also counting on the nascent PH and PV. It will certainly have to expand and modify this gamut in the presidential elections.

Lula remarked: "We can make alliances with anything left of PSDB [Brazilian Social Democratic Party]."

But he admits that PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], for example, has a national structure that cannot be totally discarded by a party that is going to face a difficult race with only the fuel of its discourse, the Church's "progressive" rank and file, and possible success in the administration of its town halls.

But it will encounter problems in expanding this gamut. As Deputy Paulo Delgado (Minas Gerais) predicts, with the authority of one who has toured states trying to weave alliances, the resistance will continue.

For PDT, Any Saddled Horse Will Do

PDT has promised to maintain the position of embracing alliances on the Right and Left, certain that some erosion here and there will not totally compromise its candidate, Leonel Brizola. He would have sufficient ideological fat to prevent the electorate from taking him for a last minute opportunist of the Right or Center.

The new PDT leader in the Chamber, Vivaldo Barbosa (Rio de Janeiro) claims: "He is putting up with many lipo-aspirations."

Based on the assessments of its strategists, the party made some fundamental mistakes by opening its alliance umbrella to its maximum limit. The worst one was the commitment with the former governor and current deputy from Mato Grosso, Julio Campos. His link with Paulo Salim Maluf's PDS [Social Democratic Party] was quite clearcut.

But, in the craving for growth, the lesson was not learned. In Paraiba, during the last municipal elections, it became allied with Wilson Braga, mayor-elect of Joao Pessoa representing PFL. Braga, after migrations through ARENA [National Renewal Alliance], the Malufist PDS, and PFL, is now setting foot in PDT.

Brizola currently has one basic concern: remaining to the left of Lula. There is an inconsistency here. He is trying to eat at both ends: to make alliances and to maintain himself as the leading knight of "socialism." This is again being backed by the Brizolists, insisting that his image is of the Left, regardless of whom he associates with.

Based on this belief, he joined Vilma Maia in Natal, although the Maiais in Rio Grande do Norte have ruled for years linked with ARENA, PDS, and the military governments. PDT's "circumstantial alliances" do not

even abide by geographical consistency. In Santa Catarina, the best example, it joined Esperidiao Amin's PDS in Florianopolis, and went seeking a "vice" in PT to comprise the slate in the beach resort of Camboriu. Farther to the north, in Parana, it played its major trump card with Jaime Lerner. More to the west, in Mato Grosso do Sul, it joined forces with Plinio Martins' PMDB and PSDB, only to be defeated by PTB, PDS, and candidate Ludio Coelho's PFL.

Brizola's fear seems greater toward likely adversaries than possible allies. Based on his political lessons, selecting or influencing the selection of adversaries is as important as constructing the candidacy itself. Based on PDT political mathematics, Lula's candidacy will decline during the course of the campaign, and he will not reach the run-off vote. Brizola would have to confront a center or right wing adversary, hatched in the PMDB structure and that of its governors, with backing from some business owners. If its expectations are borne out, PDT will not need to use much force to form its alliances.

Brizola is certain that this will take place in the run-off vote, with the viable adversary for the success of his campaign. Meanwhile, he prefers to stand by, waiting for the party conventions to divide the parties and the electoral field.

Chile

Pinochet Wishes President Bush 'Success'
PY2001235789 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
2200 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet today sent a warm and cordial message to U.S. President George Bush, wishing him success in his administration.

Pinochet also says that he wants to strengthen the traditional relations between the two countries. Pinochet's message to Bush says:

Your Excellency George Bush, President of the United States, Washington:

Your Excellency, upon assuming the presidency of the United States, the people of Chile, the government over which I preside, and myself, wish to congratulate you and to wish you success in your administration.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey to you our desire to strengthen the traditional friendship that exists between our countries. Your Excellency, please accept my best wishes.

Police Search for Bomb Inside 'Indiana I'
PY2301182589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1800 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Santiago, 23 Jan (TELAM-ANSA)—The Punta Arenas port police are searching for a bomb that was reported to have been planted inside the "Indiana I."

A police spokesman has said that a bomb had been planted inside the ship and that they had found a suspicious package. The incident caused ships docking nearby to leave the port while police determined the contents of the package.

The "Indiana I" traveled from Montevideo to Punta Arenas and will soon depart for the Malvinas Islands.

Graham J. Botteril, administrator of the ship, has said that the ship would leave at 1400 (1700 GMT) after loading timber for the population of the islands.

Bomb Called 'False Alarm'
PY2401113689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0100 GMT
24 Jan 89

[Text] Santiago, 23 Jan (EFE)—Four hours behind schedule, the ship "Indiana I" left Punta Arenas, 2,470 kilometers South from Santiago, at 2130 today, heading for the Malvinas Islands.

The delay in its departure was caused by a false alarm, conveyed through an anonymous phone call, that a bomb had been planted inside the ship.

The Bahamian flag ship, whose presence in Punta Arenas has caused protest demonstrations, unloaded two containers each holding 600 boxes of chicken eggs it brought from Montevideo.

In Punta Arenas the "Indiana I" loaded 50 tons of wood panels for construction of 26 housing units, and 10 tons of fruit and vegetables.

The ship should arrive in the Malvinas at midnight Wednesday. According to Francisco Cardenas, an agent of the Andes Shipping Company in charge of the ship, the company has not announced any future trips.

Explosion Causes Water Supply Cut in Santiago
PY2401020289 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpt] A bomb last night destroyed four water pipes of the Lo Castillo water company in the district of Las Condes. The explosion and processing problems will force a cut in the water supply this afternoon to 5,000 consumers in Las Condes. [passage omitted]